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# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 294

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 2010

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE



### Christmas Classic

Tonight and tomorrow night, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts will be staging the ninth edition of its Christmas classic "The Nutcracker & Concert of International Ballet Stars."

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### Ghastly Act

An Alabama man who told authorities he dumped his two dead children in the woods, then covered them with twigs, was charged Wednesday.

Nation...Page 22

**Sichuan Airlines eye potential service to Saipan. PAGE 2**  
**Senate OKs DPH hiring for 57 personnel. PAGE 3**

## 'Covenant, GOP to merge'

People have to understand, I am a lifetime member of the Republican National Committee, RNC, and I have been a member of that organization for the longest time.

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial



» **Fitial says he respects Inos, remains his friend**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that the Covenant Party, which he formed in 2001, will merge with the Republican Party, but he declined to comment on his relationship with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

See COVENANT on Page 4

### LUCKY GOLFER

Make-A-Wish Foundation, Guam Chapter beneficiary Juan Blanco, third from left, hands Mori Toshiyuki the keys to a brand new 2010 Toyota Yaris the latter won for sinking a hole-in-one during the 15th Annual Club At The Hyatt Golf Classic. Also pictured, from left, is Make-A-Wish board member Angela Yamashita-Santos, Hyatt director of rooms Rosalyn Quintanilla along with, from right, Hyatt director of finance Yosh Gabaldon and Microl-Toyota general manager Doug Brennan.

WALTER SUTHERLAND



## Interior gives \$5M for CUC, Compact-Impact

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta approved yesterday a total of \$5

million for three CNMI programs and projects, including some \$3 million in redirected funding to be given to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the overhaul of

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## Cyber expert raises alert on card scam targeting hotels

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A cyber expert from the U.S. Department of Justice yesterday

alerted people in the CNMI about a growing scam in which the perpetrators steal credit card information of guests or customers

See DOJ on Page 4

## New panel, NREL work on green energy plan for CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

By early 2011, the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory will be providing a report on the renewable energy options for the CNMI so that stakeholders can make educated decisions to select which one will best suit the islands, whether it be solar, wind, hydrokinetic, or geothermal.

A four-member NREL team wraps up today their data gathering in the CNMI and meetings with stakeholders to help them identify and analyze the

See NEW PANEL on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, delivers welcoming remarks on the kickoff of a renewable energy planning for the CNMI on Capital Hill yesterday morning, while Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta, second from left, and members of a team from the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory led by senior project leader Phil Voss, fourth from right, look on.



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## Local

# Sichuan Airlines eye potential service to Saipan

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A new airline from mainland China could fly to the islands starting next year after the Commonwealth Ports Authority confirmed yesterday that officials

and representatives of Sichuan Airlines Co. Ltd met with the agency to inquire about requirements and certifications.

CPA board chair Jose Lifofoi and executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero separately confirmed yesterday Sichuan

Airlines' commitment to fly to Saipan.

Sichuan Airlines is headquartered on the grounds of Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport in Chengdu, Sichuan, in the People's Republic of China. It is a regional airline operating

mainly domestic services. The airline was established in September 1986 and started flying in July 1988 between Chengdu and Wanzhou.

Deleon Guerrero said Sichuan had already secured a permit from the U.S. Department

of Transportation and Communications and is now awaiting certification from the Federal Aviation Administration.

"We had a meeting with them a couple of days ago and they are inquiring what they need to do in order for us to give them certi-

fications to fly to Saipan. They're still in the working situation now... but we're hoping they put things together so they could start as soon as possible," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lifofoi described Sichuan Air-  
**See SICHUAN on Next Page**

## A first in CNMI history, voters will decide on elected AG

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

For the first time in CNMI history, voters will decide on whether or not to elect an attor-

ney general in the next midterm elections in 2012.

The Senate passed on a 9-0 vote a House Legislative Initiative 17-2 authorizing the election of an AG.

HLI 17-2, introduced by Rep. Frank Cruz (R-Saipan), passed the House on a 17-2 vote a Nov. 17.

Cruz said similar initiatives were introduced in previous

legislatures but they were either passed by one house and rejected by the other one, or did not even come out of a committee.

"This is the first time it will be presented to CNMI voters. I

want to thank all the members of the Senate and the house who approved this initiative. It's now up to the voters to decide in 2012," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Senate and House passage of the initiative comes while the Office of the Public Auditor is investigating the substance of complaints lodged against Attorney General Ed-

ward T. Buckingham and the Office of the Attorney General for hosting a campaign gathering for former delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party in the 2010 election.

Some community members are saying that the alleged violation of election and ethics laws involving the current attorney general and his office give credence to the need for an independent or elected AG, rather than an appointed one.

## Man allegedly beats up wife inside car

A man allegedly beat up his wife during their argument inside a car on Saipan Saturday night.

Prescott J. Cabrera, 23, was arrested on Tuesday and taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief. Bail was set at \$25,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 16 at 9am.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that police received a report about a disturbance in Papago on Sunday morning.

Aldan said investigation showed that on Saturday at

11pm Cabrera and his wife had just dropped off her aunt at a house in Chalan Kiya when they had an argument that led to Cabrera allegedly punching wife in the left temple. When the wife tried to call her aunt, Cabrera allegedly threw the cell phone out of the car.

Cabrera then parked near the Chalan Kiya Industrial Center warehouses, got out and kicked the car, causing dents on the left rear passenger door and rear fender, and left rear tail lights.

On their way to As Terlaje Hill, Cabrera allegedly punched her again in the right temple. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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## Senate OKs DPH hiring for 57 personnel »But rejects Tan's reappointment to MVA board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The Senate approved yesterday the Department of Public Health's hiring of 57 personnel that include filling in vacancies for doctors, nurses, cooks, and accountants, among other things, but rejected the reappointment of Tan Holdings Corp. president Jerry Tan to the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and other senators were hesitant at first to approve the filling of 57 vacant positions at DPH, considering that most government employees now have a 16-percent pay cut because of the financial crisis.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) also questioned why it took DPH too long to fill up these vacancies if it deems these positions critical. Some of the vacancies have run for months.

Public Health secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration Esther Muna, and other DPH officials spent about an hour to justify to senators the need to fill in vacancies or hire new personnel.

Manglona and the senators said they didn't have a problem

approving the hiring of much needed doctors and nurses, but were wary of non-technical staff positions such as administrative officer and cooks.

But DPH's Villagomez said filling in vacancies for the position of cooks is required by Medicare.

"We run the risk of losing Medicare funding if we don't fill these positions," Villagomez told senators.

Health officials agreed to reduce from 58 to 57 the number of positions that need to be filled, saying that the deputy secretary for public health position need not be filled at this time. They also said the person holding the post in an acting capacity has been doing a good job.

Senators later adopted Senate Joint Resolution 17-3, authored by Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), giving DPH the green light to fill the 57 vacancies.

The House also has to adopt a similar resolution, which is now required for every new hiring or filling of vacancies under the Fiscal Year 2011 budget law. Previously, DPH and other agencies only needed the governor's certification.

### 'Non-confirmation'

On a 9-0 vote, the Senate also

adopted a committee report recommending the non-confirmation of Jerry Tan's reappointment as member of the MVA board. Tan previously served as MVA board chairman.

The senators said while Tan is a talented and experienced businessman and a valued member of the community through his charitable work, "a new MVA chairman must be able to provide undivided attention to the board."

"We also believe his lack of attention to tourism on Rota and Tinian is a direct result of his inability to provide the time necessary," the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations said in its committee report which all the senators approved yesterday.

Tan, through his office, declined to comment on the matter.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial re-nominated Tan to the MVA board on Nov. 29. If confirmed by the Senate, Tan will serve another four-year term which expires on March 17, 2014.

But Fitial and the chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), have been at odds over the appointments to boards and commissions. Cruz said the governor has not been nominating members from Tinian and Rota, and Fitial, at one time, said Cruz needs to read the constitution.

Cruz's committee has yet to decide on the governor's other appointees and re-appointees.

inquired with MVA in previous months about the tourism industry on the islands.

China—considered the CNMI's secondary market—saw a 17-percent decrease in tourist arrivals in October 2010, with 3,207 visitors compared to the same month in 2009 with 3,846 arrivals. The reduction was a result of the suspension of charter flights from Guangzhou last month.

## SICHUAN

From Page 2

lines' move as a positive development for the CNMI's tourism industry this new fiscal year.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio yesterday described Sichuan Airlines' plan as a great opportunity for CNMI tourism, which is suffering a drastic decline in arrivals since the pullout of Japan Airlines in 2005.

Tenorio said that airline representatives have also

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# Admin fails to transmit \$900K 'all others' fund for PSS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System failed to get about \$900,000 from the Finance Department as the system's allotment for its "all others" expenses in fiscal year 2010, which ended Sept. 30, 2010.

PSS finance director Richard Waldo told the CNMI Education Board during its regular meeting Thursday on Capitol Hill that the amount covers PSS' budget for school operations and other expenditures such as utilities.

He said the amount should have been transmitted to PSS prior to the end of the fiscal year about three months ago.

Waldo assured, though, that all PSS personnel still got paid their salaries on time last fiscal year.

"We haven't received the budget for 'all others' which is about \$900,000... but we're making our payroll," he said.

Board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita asked if PSS would lose the money, to

which Waldo said: "No, they have to give it to us...to maintain the maintenance of effort agreement [under the state fiscal stabilization fund]."

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting, Waldo said he expects the Fitial administration to release the \$900,000 by the end of January.

PSS was appropriated just \$34 million in fiscal year 2010 for operation,

personnel, and all others. Despite this meager budget, the system expects no shortfalls for both operation and personnel, largely due to the SFSF monies approved for PSS. Education officials said if not for the SFSF, the school system would post a huge deficit.

Of the more than \$32 million SFSF money, approximately \$3 million was used to pay for teachers' salary with

the condition that these are highly qualified teachers as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The federal government has also approved funding the wages of 105 highly qualified positions and has allowed the use of \$1.4 million to cover the schools' power and water consumption. PSS has to spend the SFSF by September 2011. Last year, it received \$22.3 million as phase one

of the grant. The remaining balance is expected anytime soon.

Education Commission Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed that she met with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos on Nov. 19 to seek the administration's assurance on the salary and wages of PSS personnel.

PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio said the system must now plan the steps it will take after all the SFSF money is used up by September 2011.

## Man arrested for visiting, sending letters to ex-wife

Police arrested on Wednesday in Garapan a 58-year-old man who allegedly kept on visiting and sending letters to his former wife despite a court order prohibiting him from contacting her.

Lee Gottwald was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for disturbing the peace, and contempt of court.

Associate Judge Perry Inos imposed a \$5,000 cash bail for Gottwald's temporary release. Inos also imposed an-

other \$300 cash bail after learning that there is an outstanding bench warrant for the defendant for not appearing in court on Nov. 22, 2010, for a previous criminal case.

Detective Peter Aldan stated in his report that investigation showed that on Sept. 24, 2010 at 8am, Gottwald kept knocking on his ex-wife's room and shouting for her at the lobby of a hotel in Garapan.

The hotel's front desk staff called the victim and asked her to come down because Gottwald was disturbing them and scaring the customers.

Gottwald managed to persuade the maintenance personnel to open the victim's room. The defendant started shouting when she refused to go with him.

The maintenance worker took the victim into a small room behind the front desk counter. The defendant left the hotel.

Detective Aldan said that on Sept. 30, 2010 at 7:40pm, the victim called the police after Gottwald came to her room at another hotel in Garapan.

The defendant allegedly started banging and kicking on the door and shouted that he would have her deported to Russia if she divorces him.

The defendant was arrested for disturbing the peace.

The detective said that on Oct. 14, 2010, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo granted a temporary restraining order to the victim.

The judge ordered the defendant to pay a \$400 monthly spousal support to the victim.

Despite the court's order of protection, the defendant handed letters to the victim on several occasions. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## DOJ

From Page 1

from hotels and convenient stores.

"When you use credit card at hotels, there are organizations that are targeting hotels to steal credit information," said Howard W. Cox, an assistant deputy chief of the DOJ's Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section in Washington, D.C., when asked by *Saipan Tribune* about the latest cyber crime that people in the CNMI should be aware of.

Cox is responsible for supervising prosecutions of federal computer crimes throughout the United States.

He conducted yesterday a "Cyber Crime, Electronic Evidence, and Cyber Security Training" for local and federal law enforcement at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret. The U.S. Attorney's Office sponsored the training, a first in the CNMI.

Cox said the scam has been ongoing and growing in popularity and that many of the perpetrators are targeting chains of American hotels and chains of American convenient stores.

"That's an example of a growing scam or Internet-related crime that can affect people on this island," he said.

Cox said his advice is that everybody

should review their credit card statements immediately to detect unauthorized use of cards.

Cox said the training provide special skills on understanding how cyber criminals are using the Internet to steal money.

"When criminals are coming here because it's a good vacation place where criminals are likely attracted here because it's a nice location, we can recognize who those people are, find the evidence that the crimes that they take with them, and try to convict them," he said.

To the people who encounter emails that they believe are scams, his recommendation is forward the emails to law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"The FBI has an excellent referral process," Cox pointed out.

He said obviously people should not respond to such emails.

"The real concern is if it's not reported we don't know about it," Cox added.

Cox said children should also be trained at an early level to be careful online.

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco said the particular training (cyber crime) is very important because the roles of the Internet has increased and

expanded exponentially.

"We will be in a situation eventually where every crime conceivable will involve some forms of Internet-related transactions," Limtiaco said.

She said they asked Cox to come to the CNMI for training about the different types of technology that are emerging globally as well as provide law enforcement with ways which they can improve their investigative skills in obtaining electronic and digital evidence.

"When we talk about cyber crime and digital evidence in terms of investigations and prosecutions, it's very, very important that we partner with local law enforcement. So it's a local-federal partnership. And that we also work very diligently to partner with the international community," Limtiaco said.

She said with the explosive growth of the Internet globally, cyber attacks on critical information systems and cyber crime—both at the domestic and international fronts—have increased significantly.

Limtiaco said to combat against these very serious threats, the DOJ has established strategies and task forces, including the first National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, Identity Theft Task Force, and Intellectual Property Task Force.

## NEW PANEL

From Page 1

renewable energy options here.

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta presented yesterday to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, other government officials, private sector representatives, and the media, the members of the NREL team.

They included senior project leader Phil Voss, senior research supervisor E. Ian Baring-Gould, senior engineer Scott Haase, and principal scientist Charles Visser.

"When they leave, they will have a much better picture of the CNMI's possible options and opportunities," Babauta said.

Similar undertakings were created in American Samoa and Guam in previous months.

Fitial, for his part, appointed nine members of a renewable energy leadership committee which will work with

NREL.

The NREL team and the leadership committee met yesterday afternoon, a few hours after Babauta and Fitial's joint news conference.

Fitial's appointees include the Northern Marianas College president, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director, CNMI Energy Office director, the governor's special assistant for administration, the governor's special advisor for alternative energy, and representatives from the Rota and Tinian mayor's offices, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In January, a full CNMI Energy Steering Committee will be formed.

"This Steering Committee, with NREL's guidance, is charged with creating a long-term, comprehensive, strategic energy plan for the CNMI. This plan is intended to belong to the CNMI and to be a continuing community effort... It will be a starting point from which you and businesses can more

wisely decide on the right mix of energy alternatives available," Babauta said.

Babauta and Fitial thanked each other for their efforts in advancing the cause for renewable energy in the CNMI, at a time when the costs of fuel have been steadily increasing.

The NREL team's visit to the CNMI is a follow-up to the partnership that Fitial and others developed when they visited NREL in Golden, Colorado in March this year.

Fitial, in an interview with reporters later, said he is particularly interested in geothermal and hydrokinetic energy, which is generated from ocean current.

"Geothermal energy is affordable and reliable. You go to the Philippines and you see they only pay less than 5 cents per kilowatt hour. You go to Iceland, the same thing," he said, adding that his administration has been actually working on developing geothermal energy.

Babauta set aside \$1 million of OIA's budget for creating long-term strategic

## INTERIOR

From Page 1

its power engines.

Babauta also awarded \$1.9 million for Compact Impact funding, and another \$93,000 for the CNMI Water Task Force.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial welcomed the Office of Insular Affairs' redirection of the \$3 million from unobligated or unspent capital improvement project funding to CUC, and the two other grants.

Babauta signed the federal grants during a joint news conference with Fitial on alternative energy planning on Capitol Hill yesterday morning.

Babauta said OIA does not want to see the CNMI experience severe power outages again similar to what it had to deal with in 2007.

He also signed an OIA Compact-Impact grant to the CNMI totaling \$1,903,443 for fiscal year 2011, the same funding level as in fiscal year 2010.

Compact-Impact funding is used to reimburse the CNMI for its expenses

in hosting citizens from the Freely Associated States—Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia, along with Palau and the Marshall Islands.

Of the \$1.9 million, the Department of Public Safety and Investigative Services will get the lion's share of over \$1.157 million; Department of Public Health, \$513,509; Department of Corrections, \$154,698; Division of Youth Services, \$44,616; Office of the Public Defender, \$37,151; and Department of Public Health's mental health services, \$23,235.

The CNMI has seen a drop in Compact Impact funding because the latest survey found that there are fewer FAS citizens in the CNMI, while Guam has seen an increase.

Babauta said OIA wants to see all people of the CNMI get 24-hour water service. He said from 26 percent of the population having access to 24-hour water service, the figure went up to 84 percent with the work of the Water Task Force. Fitial said prior to last week, the coverage was only 76 percent.

## COVENANT

From Page 1

"Yes, I'm going back to my party. We're going to merge the Covenant and Republican Party. There's a committee assigned to it. The two parties are working together," Fitial said in a brief interview right after a joint news conference with Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta on renewable energy.

Fitial said "in unity, there's strength." The governor said he is a lifetime member of the Republican National Committee and has always been a member of the Republican Party in the CNMI.

But in 2001, he formed his own Covenant Party for his own ambition to run for governor. When he lost the gubernatorial bid that year, he went back to the House. He won as governor in 2005, and got re-elected in 2009.

He is no longer eligible to seek a

third term.

"People have to understand, I am a lifetime member of the Republican National Committee, RNC, and I have been a member of that organization for the longest time," he said.

But some Republicans do not support the merger of the Covenant and Republican Parties.

Meanwhile, Fitial and Inos have not been talking to each other since July over differences in hiring and contract award policies, as well as the termination and reinstatement of Ambrosio Ogomoro at the Department of Public Safety.

"I decided not to say anything anymore about the relationship between me and the lieutenant governor because I respect him. He's my friend. And you guys better stop creating problem," Fitial told reporters.

Inos also said earlier that despite his differences with the governor, he still respects him as governor and friend. He also said there's no reason to merge the two political parties.



# Supreme Court OKs Govendo's letter of apology

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court approved yesterday Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo's letter of apology to the people of the CNMI for his statements that resulted in him being sanctioned.

Justice pro tem Edward Manibusan said in an order that Govendo submitted the letter of apology on Monday to the CNMI Supreme Court for review, pursuant to the high court's opinion issued on Dec. 1, 2010.

"The court finds that the letter complies with the opinion's requirements, and it hereby gives approval for Judge Govendo to publish the letter pursuant to our opinion," Manibusan said.

In its Dec. 1 opinion, the High Court required Govendo to write a letter of apology addressed to the people of the Commonwealth, among other sanctions.

The justices said the letter shall be submitted to the CNMI Supreme Court for its review and approval within 15 days.

"In connection with the publication of this letter, Judge Govendo shall bear the expense of taking out advertisements in two newspapers of local circulation in order to ensure that the letters are published in their entirety," stated the opinion penned by associate justice Alexandro C. Castro and justices pro tem Edward Manibusan and Vern P. Perez.

The justices also publicly censured Govendo and ordered him to complete an educational program on judicial ethics at his own expense.

The justices ruled that Govendo's statements during hearings in a domestic abuse case and two adoption cases "crossed the line of what constitutes permissible judiciary commentary within the courtroom and must be sanctioned."

They ordered that Govendo



Govendo



Manibusan

be reassigned from the Family Court Division for a period of one year.

On Aug. 25, 2010, the CNMI Supreme Court found that Govendo violated provisions of the Commonwealth Code of Judicial Conduct, as well as some of the Commonwealth Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure.

In imposing sanctions, the justices said Govendo violated many of the judicial canons and rules with his statements,

and as a result, "he has lowered the bar with respect to the judiciary's reputation in the eyes of the people of the Commonwealth."

"No doubt the parties before him during these proceedings, two of which were petitioners for adoption, likely felt prejudiced, and likely left the courthouse with a feeling that the court did not dispense impartial justice," they said.

"These statements essentially amount to angry tirades. The adoption comments are even more shocking as he attacked innocent and valued members of our community," the justices said.

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# Grant seeks to provide opportunities for library staff

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Local library personnel who want to pursue a post-graduate degree in library and information science can accomplish this through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales said IMLS has chosen Pacific Resources for Education and Learning to administer the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant.

The \$652,000 grant is part of a three-year project called

"Leaders for Pacific Libraries" which seeks to bring continuing education opportunities to library staff throughout the Pacific region.

These opportunities provide assistance to various staff of libraries, archives, museums, and related information agencies in American Samoa, the CNMI,

Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Republic of Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

The program encourages members of the library community to be prepared in meeting the challenges of the 21st century by recruiting a new generation of librarians.

Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune* that training for the program, which begins in the fall of 2011, will be done online to be

coursed through the University of North Texas.

He said the course introduction will be held at the College of Micronesia in Pohnpei where program participants will meet their professors as well as receive their laptops and stipends.

According to Gonzales, applicants should meet the minimum requirement of having a bachelor of arts or science degree.

Gonzales said the grant mon-

ey will pay for the tuition fee as well as the expenses for the Pohnpei trip.

The executive director encouraged all local library staff to avail of this program to pursue further studies.

"The public library is pleased to announce the availability of this grant. It corresponds to our state library's priority to develop and improve local capacity in the Commonwealth," he said.

For more information, contact the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at 235-7322 or visit [www.prel.org](http://www.prel.org).



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## Weatherization assistance awarded to first Rota resident

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rota resident Milagro Manglona became the first beneficiary of the Rota Weatherization Assistance Program under the CNMI Division of Energy.

An income-based program that is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, WAP aims to help qualified residents reduce their energy consumption with the use of energy efficient appliances.

Manglona's residence was weatherized on Tuesday with the

replacement of all incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, installation of smoke alarms, and the weather stripping of doors and windows.

The Rota resident also got an 18 cubic feet refrigerator and two 6,000 BTU window-type air conditioners.

"My previous aircon was not working efficiently and I had to use a fan to help cool the room but last night I slept so well since it was so cold that I didn't want to get up," said Manglona.

She expressed appreciation to the U.S. Department of Energy

program and the staff of Energy Division that made the weatherization of her house possible.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, who was present during the presentation of appliances, congratulated Manglona for being the program's first recipient on Rota and thanked the Energy Division for including Rota in the WAP.

"I encourage all the people of Rota who meet the 'low income' criteria to avail of this important program, as the replacement of the new appliances will help reduce energy consumption within households," he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expressed his continued support for the timely implementation of available programs under ARRA to ensure that CNMI residents can avail of its various benefits.

"I am proud of the strides that the [Energy Division] has made with bringing the variety of programs to our entire community. I continue to push those involved to be vigilant in ensuring that the residents of Tinian and Rota avail of these programs," he said.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos said the weatherization project underscores the commitment of the local government in bringing ARRA benefits to the community.

"With programs and projects aimed at helping our residents, government, the CUC, and schools, I look forward to many more of these types of milestones," added Inos.

Energy Division director Thelma Inos said she is pleased that their office is making progress on Rota.

She thanked the Rota mayor, Tom Glenn Quitugua, and Donna Barcinas of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Energy Division program manager Lorraine Seman and staff Eugene Borja and James Reyes for their support and assistance.

Inos gave credit to the CNMI ARRA office under the leadership of former Commerce secretary Michael Ada whom she said was instrumental in keeping the \$18 million State Energy Program funding.

"While I am humbled that we were acknowledged by U.S. Department of Energy for our efforts, we still have a lot of work ahead of us," she added.

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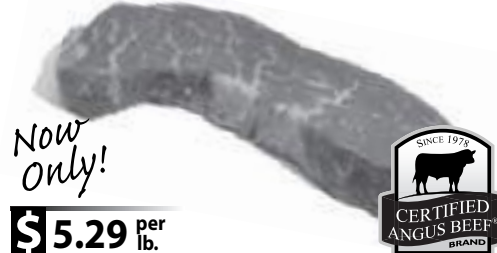
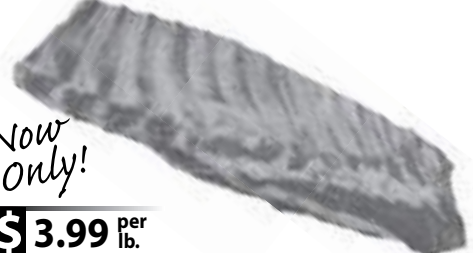
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# High Court reverses ruling in inheritance case

The Supreme Court reversed yesterday a Superior Court ruling in the case of the *Estate of Isaac Kaipat*, saying the Estate of Dolores K. Pelisamen and its heirs must be recognized as heirs to Isaac Kaipat's estate.

After Dolores' father Isaac died in 1944, Dolores was adopted under the Carolinian custom of *mwei mwei* by Isaac's sister, Rita. After inheriting from Rita's estate, Dolores' heirs sought recognition as heirs to Isaac's estate as well. The question facing the court was whether a child who is adopted by a blood-relative after her natural parents have

died can inherit from both her adoptive and natural parents.

The Supreme Court first tried to resolve this case by examining Carolinian custom, which permits an adopted child to still inherit from her natural parents if this is the natural parents' intent. However, the Superior Court had found that Isaac's intent was unknown, and that Carolinian custom did not provide a mechanism for determining inheritance when a parent's intent is unknown and the other family members disagree. Based on this absence of customary law, the Superior Court had ruled that customary

law could not be applied, and the Supreme Court affirmed this conclusion.

While the Superior Court had then denied the inheritance claim on equity grounds, the Supreme Court ruled that in the absence of customary law, the Superior Court should have examined non-customary sources of law. The Supreme Court ruled that Trust Territory precedent—in force when Isaac died—established that Dolores' right to inherit from Isaac's estate vested upon his death in 1944, and that under the common law Dolores' subsequent adoption did not

divest her or her estate of this vested right. The High Court observed that the right to inherit from a natural parent is preserved unless it is extinguished by statute, and that the Commonwealth Legislature had not passed any statute eliminating Dolores' right to inherit from her natural father. Accordingly, the High Court ruled that Dolores' estate and her heirs could inherit from Isaac Kaipat's estate.

The Supreme Court's full opinion *re: the Estate of Isaac Kaipat*, and can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>. (PR)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 10, 1998

### NMC acts to avoid tuition snafu

Beginning school year 1999-2000, students will be required to present their scholarship grants before admission at the Northern Marianas College to curb delays in payment. The college was appropriated \$575,000 this fiscal year for educational assistance grants. However, NMC is yet to receive the payment for the first semester. In a move to resolve delays in collecting scholarship grants, the college would like to realize cash instead of incurring expenses for the entire semester. In a recent meeting, President Agnes McPhetres pointed out to members of the Board of Regents that NMC was not appropriated for "All Others" since it generates revenue from educational grants.

### RP, CNMI to firm up labor agreement

Philippine labor officials are arriving on Saipan next week for the renegotiation of a memorandum of agreement with the commonwealth to update and improve the guidelines for hiring and recruitment of Filipino workers for CNMI, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The memorandum, signed by former lieutenant governor Jesus C. Borja on behalf of the local government, was put in place in 1995 when abuses against Filipino employees were rampant. It was envisioned to eliminate exploitation of Filipinos who were either unpaid or forced to work in another job category, and ensure that employers are capable of paying the salaries of their employees.

Dec. 10, 1999

### BOE okays 2 new high school for Saipan

The Board of Education yesterday approved a plan to build two new high schools early next year to ease overcrowding at the Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School. According to Anthony Pellegrino, BOE member and chair of the CIP Committee, the total budget for the project is \$19. The amount will also cover expenses for the construction of one junior high school. Based on a plan submitted by the committee to the board, the schools will be located in Kagman and Koblerville. Each school can accommodate 600 students, a capacity which officials said is enough to address the projected 3 percent annual growth in student population on Saipan for the next 10 years.

### Faisao pushes for approval of FAS migration bill

Saying it is "urgent and necessary," a proponent of a bill restricting the stay of Freely Associated States citizens in the Northern Marianas has vowed to push the legislation during the few session days left before the current Legislature adjourns. Rep. Melvin O. Faisao, chair of the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee, underscored the need to vote on the measure now in light of the developments on the ongoing talks on Compact renegotiations. He said some provisions in the agreement forged between the United States and FSM, Marshalls and Palau governments can't be enforced in the CNMI since it controls its own immigration.

Dec. 10, 2001

### Middle Rd. beautification breaks ground

A \$200,000-plus beautification project spanning much of Middle Road will break ground today, in line with efforts to enhance the natural beauty of this major thoroughfare. According to Rep. William S. Torres, this significant beautification project in Precinct III will extend all the way from the Sadog Tasi junction up to the entrance of the Saipan International Airport, "That's a long stretch and it will cover all the major intersections where the traffic lights are," Torres said. Besides enhancing the traffic light intersections, he said the project will also include putting up natural brush covers to beautify the container yards close to the seaport in Puerto Rico.

### MVA cuts project's budget by half

Budgetary constraint forced the Marianas Visitors Authority to reduce the annual budget of a local tourism promotion for children by 50 percent. MVA-Korea Marketing Specialist Wayne Pangelinan said an extensive discussion was conducted last week to determine ways on how to maximize the limited budget allocated for the Happy Children In Paradise 2002 campaign. The project, which taps children under the age of 12, hands out souvenir items to arriving children from other countries. MVA kits, composed of a pen, a Saipanda doll, and a gift pack, were given away. Pangelinan explained that the hard economic times forced the committee, which handles the project, to limit the number of gifts distributed to local hotels where tourists are billeted.

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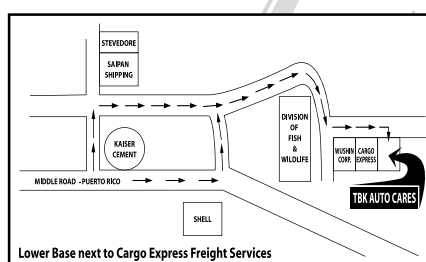
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## Delta: No plans yet for direct Saipan-Manila flight

Delta Air Lines has no plans of reviving direct Manila-Saipan flights anytime soon, putting an end to rumors that the airline will reinstate the service abandoned by Continental Airlines in 2008.

"Delta has no current plan to fly nonstop between Saipan and Manila," said Hiroko Tanaka (Okada), Delta's manager of corporate communications in Asia Pacific, in an email yesterday.

Rumors that Delta will be reviving nonstop flights from the Philippine capital to the CNMI began circulating in the community after Saipan hotels

received flyers promoting the service.

Tanaka clarified that the offering is only for Manila to Saipan via Tokyo's Narita and is not a new nonstop service between Saipan and Manila.

"Delta operates nonstop flights from Tokyo-Narita Airport, its Asian hub, to nine U.S. mainland gateways, three beach resorts—Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan—and nine destinations in Asia," Tanaka said.

Meanwhile, he said a new service between Tokyo-Narita and Palau will be launched this month.

"Delta also recently an-

nounced plans to add service between Narita and Guangzhou in April 2011, pending government approval, and increases to the number of flights between Narita and Manila during the peak summer travel season," he added.

Continental's 2008 decision to stop flying between Saipan and Manila affected thousands of Filipino workers in the Northern Marianas and hurt tourism on the islands, which is already suffering from the effects of Japan Airlines' decision to end scheduled flights from Tokyo to Saipan. (Moneth G. Deposa)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XX, Issue No. 294Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
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MEMBER

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### EDITORIAL

## Elizabeth Edwards' strength of spirit

(c) 2010, The Dallas Morning News

Elizabeth Edwards lived much of her life knowing all too well what “a matter of life and death” really meant. She knew the best of what life had to offer, and she knew the worst. And she responded to both sides with remarkable grace, dignity and resolve. That spirit likely served her well in the weeks and months leading up to her death Tuesday.

Most Americans met her when she introduced husband John as the Democratic vice-presidential nominee at the party's national convention in July 2004. The public quickly crowned her the most popular of the two candidates and their spouses—uncommonly warm, funny and down to earth while at the same time savvy on the issues and a top adviser to her husband.

This ability to balance a sense of humor with laser focus on campaign strategy was all the more remarkable given the hell she had walked through since 1996, when the Edwardses' 16-year-old son died in an auto accident. The tragedy prompted her to quit her job as a lawyer and become a stay-at-home mother to her young teen daughter, Cate. She soon underwent fertility treatments and gave birth to two more children, Emma Claire and Jack.

As the Kerry-Edwards ticket lost in 2004, Elizabeth learned she had breast cancer, a diagnosis she confronted with the same furious tenacity she exhibited in her husband's campaign. In 2008, not long after John Edwards launched his second bid for the presidency, her cancer returned, incurable this time. Yet she again regained her strength, more intent than ever on drawing attention to her most passionate cause: improving health care.

Horribly, the story grew even more grim, and many of us have to swallow hard at some of the choices Elizabeth Edwards made during this time. Most appallingly, she encouraged her husband to continue to pursue his presidential ambitions, knowing of an extramarital affair that could implode his candidacy. She continued to believe too many of his lies when the rest of the world saw him for the feckless cad he was. Her image was also tarnished by reports in recent years suggesting she often was far harsher with staff members than her public image might indicate.

With some things, Edwards exhibited a remarkable ability to be in denial. But she was not blind to the reality of her cancer—and who cannot admire the example she set of a woman who refused to be a victim to this deadly disease?

Ultimately, she carried that same substance into her fractured marriage and said “enough,” shifting her focus to trying to squeeze a lifetime into the tiny space she had left with her children. Some things, she showed us, simply aren't worth fighting for. But some things are—and this is the strength of spirit that Elizabeth Edwards will be remembered for.

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## In praise of envy

Gordon Gekko had it all wrong. It's not greed that's good. It's envy.

Think about it. Envy is what we mean when we talk about “keeping up with the Joneses.” It's not just petty social comparisons; it also pushes us to try harder, do better, match the accomplishments or wealth of someone else we admire. In our society, envy is at least in part a driver of economic aspiration and activity.

Way back in the early 19th century, Alexis de Tocqueville noted how democracy and capitalism combined to foster an inordinate amount of envy in American life. “I never met in America with any citizen so poor as not to cast a glance of hope and envy on the enjoyments of the rich,” he wrote. The American's envy, he went on, kept him in constant “anticipation of those good things fate still obstinately withheld from him.”

Most characterizations of envy in America are pretty bleak. Think about Montgomery Clift in the 1951 movie classic “A Place in the Sun.” In his attempt to break into the upper crust, the poor nephew of a rich industrialist contemplates murder. And, indeed, envy has its destructive side.

But in recent years, social psychologists have begun to make a distinction between malicious and benign envy. According to an upcoming study in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, “maliciously envious people feel frustrated and try to level the difference with the superior others by pulling those others down.” Benignly envious people, on the other hand, “also feel frustrated, but they try to level the difference by moving themselves up.”

In real life, it's pretty difficult to disentangle the two types of envy, to figure out where one ends and the other begins. Plenty of Horatio Alger stories are driven as much by resentment of one's superiors as they are by pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps-gumption. As 17th century British writer Thomas Fuller put it, “Nothing sharpens sight like envy.”

Most societies develop conventions to inhibit the destructive power of malicious envy. On playgrounds across this country, children are taught that “it's not whether you win or lose but how you play the game.” When I was in grammar school, we were obliged to send Valentine's Day cards to every student so that nobody envied anyone else.

Religious traditions, in particular, teach of the dangers of coveting that which is not yours. The Ten Commandments specifically condemns it. Catholic tradition includes envy among the seven cardinal sins. In Dante's “Purgatory,” the envious have their eyes sewn shut because they found pleasure in witnessing other's downfalls.

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ

Los Angeles Times

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But highly competitive societies such as ours also have mechanisms to create and leverage envy. In fact, democratic culture and institutions, even as they foster the belief in equality among citizens, strongly promote the feeling of envy. There are prizes for just about everything, and plenty of competitions that result in winners and losers. The advertising industry routinely seeks to elicit envy to sell status symbols. And then there's what critics call class warfare in politics.

A few weeks ago, Sarah Palin caused a stir for a comment she made on the radio calling Barbara and George H.W. Bush “blue-bloods who want to pick and choose their winners instead of allowing competition.” Palin was striking back at Barbara Bush for dissing the former Alaska governor as just another pretty face on “The Larry King Show.” Palin probably doesn't envy Mrs. Bush (why should she, she's a rich and privileged woman herself now) but she shrewdly uses others' envy of elites like the Bushes to stoke her fans. In politics, such maneuvers are called “class warfare,” and when convenient, both sides use it and/or decry its divisive nature.

Nobody in American politics is likely to admit outright to the benefits of class warfare, but despite its fractious nature, it has powered American achievements and, ironically, equality. Throughout U.S. history, aspiring elites have sought to dethrone established elites. Think Irish pols taking on the Brahmins in early 20th century Boston. Think aspiring Jews taking on WASP hegemony in New York. Think of workers seeking to better their conditions and signing union cards while images of contemptible “fat cats” dance in their heads.

In these hard times, when dreams of economic mobility wither, we need all the motivation and hope we can get. It's not just about gaining money or material wealth, as the infamous Gordon Gekko quote suggests. It's about trajectory and the feeling that one has the possibility of rising to another level. We can recognize when class warfare goes too far—Glenn Beck anyone? But Palin's foray was classic Americana—down with the rich, up with the rest of us. And we may need such class warfare now more than ever.



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The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

# Cheap, unglamorous, but important

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [TropicalEd.com](http://TropicalEd.com). Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



December is usually the time to entertain happy visions of buying cool new tech stuff, either as gifts for others or as treats for ourselves. So, yeah, hooray for tech. I'll always toast it.

But this year finds me feeling more flat than fizzy. Seeing 2011 loom on the calendar gives me an ominous feeling that foreign friends and colleagues may be sent packing, as the CNMI's long and winding immigration road approaches new territory. And, even if immigration isn't a direct issue for everyone, next year is going to harbor unhappy economic surprises as the world's Abominable Debt Monster continues to rattle his cage, straining at his chains and making scary growling noises.

So a lot of folks are going to be cast adrift in a world that offers more worries than comforts.

Most people I know will cling to their photo albums and a few key documents as their most important possessions. So here we

do have a tech angle, and a mighty critical one, since pictures and documents are either digital to begin with, or can be made that way.

Many workers in the Commonwealth don't have their own computers. They've been using the office computer, or publicly available machines, for their tech chores. I've seen people lose their prized digital photos when they show up for work, and work isn't there anymore.

Indeed, anything digital can be lost in an instant.

And what about physical documents? Like letters of recommendation from employers, diplomas, military papers, and maybe some important old photos from the hometown kin. This stuff can vanish in a blur when we have to pull up stakes and our attention is taxed.

So here we confront another bummer: Anything physical can be lost in an instant.

There's only one answer here: First, digitize the physical items, and then make sure you organize and back up the digital files.

Beyond the simplest situations, this project can require a little bit of thought as you map out what you have, what you want to archive, and how much storage space is going to be involved. It's worth a few minutes sketching this stuff out on a note pad to see what you're up against.

The next step is to buy or (better yet) borrow a flatbed scanner so you can tackle the physical elements. I wouldn't want to do this in a last minute panic, because scanners are finicky.

Some scanners, or associated software, will try to seduce you into using their weird file formats. Don't take the bait. Use a common file format for archives, such as TIFF (good but makes really big files) or JPG (not as good but the files are far smaller).

From my experience, scanning photos at anything over 600 dots per inch of resolution seems to just gobble up space without offering any discernable benefits. Heck, 300 dpi is probably just fine.

Scanning 500 photos was, for me, a process of a couple of weeks, just chipping away at things when I had the time. It's not fun. In fact, it is so not fun that it's worth doing right the first time.

As for files that are already digital, the file format dangers haven't disappeared, they've just changed disguises. For example, many folks in the Commonwealth use WordPerfect for their documents. If you've written your blockbuster novel in it I'd suggest making copies of it in more common formats, such as RTF or Word or, better yet, both.

Finally, we have to consider where to actually store all these precious digits of data. Some folks can probably get away with just a few pennies for a CD. Other people, if they have digital art projects, lots of photos, or video, often spend hundreds of dollars for external hard drives.

But for people who aren't tech enthusiasts and whose photos and documents number in the hundreds instead of in the thousands, then even a very humble 8 GB USB flash drive can probably do the trick. So we're talking under \$20 or so, typically, but prices vary wildly so you're on your own. There are many good brands. The ones I trust the most are HP, SanDisk, Patriot, and Kingston. Of course, I don't trust anything enough to assume it won't break, so making redundant backups is essential.

As humble and unglamorous as it is, that's my tech idea of the year: Twenty bucks worth of USB flash drives to encourage friends and family to manage and safeguard their data.

Life can have a nasty way of taking stuff away from us, so can't we at least keep our memories?

## EB-1C: Green card for multinational managers and executives—with a 'CNMI only' twist

### IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Maybe a better title for today's column would be, "How to Get A Green Card by Transferring into Your Own Job," although of course that won't work for everyone. But for those to whom it does apply, it's a great opportunity, and it's only available to people already working in the CNMI, and only for a short time.

#### What's EB-1C?

We've talked about the EB-1C visa category before. EB-1, the first employment-based immigration preference category, is available to three groups: persons of extraordinary ability, outstanding professors and researchers and—EB-1C, the one we concentrate on today—multinational managers or executives who are intracompany transferees.

EB-1C is an immigrant visa—a green card category. It is a close relative of the L-1A nonimmigrant visa available to intracompany transferees who are bona fide managers or executives. Like L-1A, the basic requirement (other than proving managerial or executive capacity) is employment as a manager or executive, for at least one of the three years immediately preceding the visa application date, for a foreign parent, subsidiary, affiliate or branch of a U.S. company. There are some additional requirements, the most important of which is that the U.S. employer "must have been doing business for at least one year, as an affiliate, a subsidiary, or as the same corporation or other legal entity that employed you abroad," to quote the USCIS information page (available at <http://tinyurl.com/y17lwoq>).

#### Only in the CNMI

This is where the "CNMI-only" part comes in. EB-1C is available everywhere in the U.S., but for now, and for most of the next year, there is a special CNMI twist.

Remember that prior to the federal immigration transition date, Nov. 28, 2009, all CNMI businesses were considered "foreign" for immigration purposes, notwithstanding the fact that the CNMI was, as now, a U.S. territory. On the transition date, however, the government's magic wand passed over the CNMI, and all CNMI businesses became U.S. businesses, again for immigration purposes.

es. Therefore employment for a CNMI company prior to Nov. 28, 2009, is considered employment for a foreign company, and employment for the same employer after that date is employment for a U.S. company.

For visa purposes, only one more thing is needed: at the time of application, there must still be a "foreign component," that is, a non-U.S. parent, subsidiary, affiliate or branch must still continue to exist after Nov. 28, 2009. It is not enough just to have worked for a CNMI company both before and after that date. The existence of a foreign component is an absolute prerequisite for either L-1A or EB-1C visas.

For those who meet all conditions, L-1A (and L-1B, for "special knowledge" employees) nonimmigrant visas have been available for CNMI employees who are "transferring" into their own jobs, since the transition date. Now that a year has passed since the transition date, EB-1C green cards are also available, often for the same employees.

#### Only for a Little While

This is very good news, especially since EB-1C and the L visas do not require labor certification or prevailing wage determination from the U.S. Department of Labor. Both EB-1C and the L visas do require that final processing be through the U.S. Department of State, at the appropriate consulate. (USCIS is considering a waiver for processing of nonimmigrant visas within the U.S., but no decision has yet been made.)

BUT, like those "limited time offers" that are a cliché of modern advertising, the good news won't last, because of the requirements themselves. For both EB-1C and L visas, the basic requirement is that the employee must have worked one of the past three years for a foreign component of the U.S. company that petitions for them. Those CNMI executives and managers who are transferring into their own jobs can only meet that requirement until Nov. 27, 2011; after that, they will not be able to show a full year out of the past three working for their employer's foreign component, if they have only worked in the CNMI during that time.

For EB-1C applicants, then, the whole application window is one year: from Nov. 28 of this year, until Nov. 27, 2011. L visa applicants, who have had an additional year, lose their opportunity at the same time. After that, EB-1C and L visa applicants will have to show qualifying employment for a true foreign, not just a CNMI company whose designation (for immigration purposes) has changed from "foreign" to "U.S." by operation of law. We'll still be able to bring intracompany transferees who are multinational managers and executives into the CNMI, but not based on their CNMI pre-transition date employment.

#### How Do You Do It?

The EB-1C, like the L visa, is an employer's application. The employer files Form I-140 (Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker), along with evidence demonstrating the employee's qualifications for the visa, the employer's standing to sponsor the employee, the job descriptions (past and present), and the employer's financial capability, among other factors. For the CNMI, the I-140 is filed with the Nebraska Service Center. If the Form I-140 is approved, then

employer and employee receive instructions for consular processing, including an interview. As with any green card category, the employee's immediate relatives (spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21) can be derivative beneficiaries. The I-140, and instructions, can be found through the USCIS Forms page, <http://tinyurl.com/y3ffyd>.

#### Some Specific Questions

**Q: My employer obtained an L-1A visa for me to transfer from the CNMI to Guam, in 2008, to manage its Guam branch. Is my nonimmigrant visa still good? Can I renew it?**

**A:** Your visa is good until it expires. But you can renew it only if, after Nov. 28, 2009, your employer still has a foreign component.

**Q: I have an L-1A visa. Can I switch to EB-1C?**

**A:** Yes, but you will have to meet all qualifications, and your employer will have to submit a new application.

**Q: I have an L-1B visa? Can I switch to EB-1C?**

**A:** Only if you qualify as a bona fide executive or manager. L-1B is for employees with specialized knowledge, and L-1Bs are not necessarily managers. But some L-1Bs have managerial duties, or acquire them during employment, so the switch is not impossible—but your qualifications will have to be documented. As with the L-1A conversion, your employer will have to submit a new application.

*The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to [lex-marianas@pticom.com](mailto:lex-marianas@pticom.com). Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com).*

### Letter to the Editor

## Help!

Gas prices are up again. Wow. Whatever happened to the Consumer Commission? Isn't anybody in the commission or even our local leaders, including Rep. Kilili, awake? How about you, Rep. Stanley Torres? Why don't you put your effort into this predicament? Since you are aggressive enough in dealing with irregularities, check out the hardship that our people are suffering from. The gas companies are laughing because they are making money while our people are earning less and less.

I just received an email from an employee there who actually performed 64 hours and received 52 hours on the check stub, which, after all obligations, the net came to a screeching halt at \$33. What can you get with that money? Fill up your gas tank and its gone. Buy a sack of rice and four cans of Spam and, poooof, your net income is gone and you wait until the next pay period and maybe you'll get paid. This, while the price of gas keeps going up and up, it's almost a joke.

Boy, if we can only get a gallon of gas and mix it with salad oil or even water, the gas companies would still raise their price as often as they want. Please help our people! *Pot fabot!*

**Jack Taitano**






Brooklyn, New York



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲84 ▼76
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼76

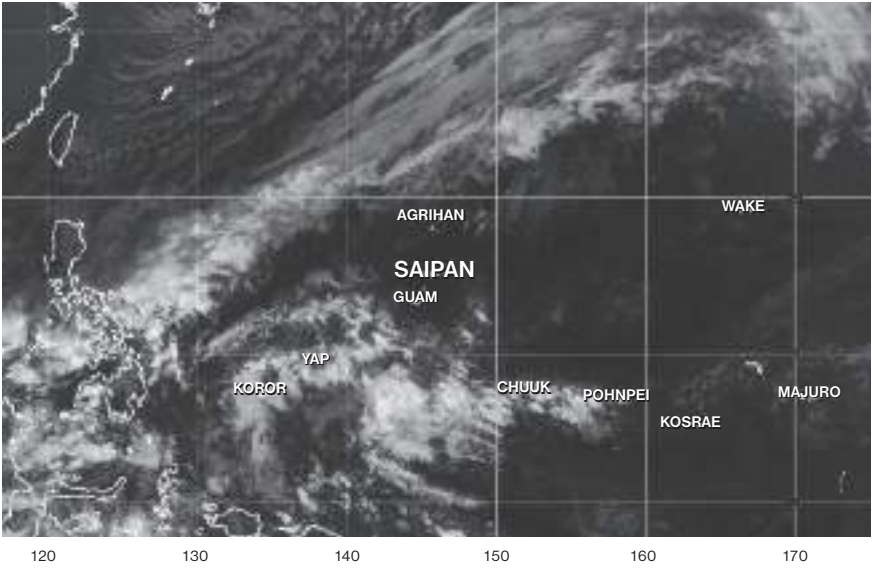
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲36 ▼19
Hong Kong	Showers	▲71 ▼56
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲42 ▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼52
Miami	Sunny	▲77 ▼59
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲37 ▼31
Osaka	Showers	▲60 ▼41
Paris	Cloudy	▲41 ▼38
Pusan	Windy	▲46 ▼32
Rome	Sunny	▲54 ▼40
Salem	Rain	▲49 ▼43
San Francisco	Showers	▲64 ▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲31 ▼21
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼46
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲42 ▼34

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
11:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
5:28 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
9:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N150E to 18N136E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring north of the CNMI near Iwo To island and Minami Tori Shima along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A dissipating low-level circulation is centered southwest of Koror near 4N131E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found around Yap and Koror within 125 miles of a line from 1N135E to 8N135E then eastward within 100 miles of a line from 8N135E to 10N142E further east. Convergent east and southeast winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Guam and just west of Chuuk between 3N and 8N from 141E to 151E and over Chuuk and west of Pohnpei between 5N and 8N from 151E to 158E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 3N172E to 9N180E. Scattered showers are occurring between 5N and 9N from 177E to beyond 180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	5:49 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:00 AM	9:49 PM
Saturday	10:39 AM	10:38 PM
Sunday	11:16 AM	11:24 PM
Monday	11:51 AM	
Tuesday	12:25 PM	12:10 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				via ICN
			via ICN	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM+Palau				via ICN
			1, 2, 4, 7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM+Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	via GUM				5 via GUM+Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM+Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM+Palau
			1, 2, 4, 6, 7	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	via GUM				via GUM
			2, 4, 6, 7	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7				via GUM
			via GUM	C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				via ICN
			via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7				via ICN
			via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



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2X4X16 - \$5.70	2X4X16 - \$7.70
2X4X18 - \$6.30	2X4X18 - \$8.70
2X4X20 - \$6.80	2X4X20 - \$9.60
2X6X12 - \$6.70	2X6X12 - \$7.90
2X6X14 - \$7.60	2X6X14 - \$11.00
2X6X16 - \$8.90	2X6X16 - \$10.30
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# Center for Independent Living donates wheelchairs to Freedom Air

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Center for Independent Living in the CNMI donated three executive wheelchairs to Freedom Air yesterday at the domestic airport.

The wheelchairs will be distributed to Freedom Air's stations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the use of the airline's passengers.

Members and officers of CLI-CNMI handed the wheelchairs to the management of the commuter air carrier.

Director Lydia D. Igitol said the CLI-CNMI, a non-profit organization run by and for persons with disabilities, made the donation to offer convenience for people with disabilities who travel to and from the three islands.



Based on her experience, Igitol said traveling on a small aircraft can sometimes be inconvenient for people with dis-

abilities, especially if they use mobility devices since airlines have limited aisle chairs.

"We wanted to make travel-

ing conducive to members of the community with disabilities that are on the go," Igitol told *Saipan Tribune*.

Center for Independent Living in the CNMI director Lydia D. Igitol, far right, leads other members and officers in donating three executive wheelchairs to Freedom Air yesterday at the domestic airport. Joining her in photo are CLI-CNMI board president Maria C. Pangelinan, vice president Jose C. Sablan, secretary Janice A. Sablan, treasurer Helen C. Sablan, Freedom Air station manager Dennis K. Cruz, and supervisors Aldebert Lizama and Reno Celes.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

According to Igitol, this is the first time the CLI-CNMI made a donation to a private institution to promote independent living for people with disabilities.

"We understand our economic condition but we believe that people with disabilities deserve more," she said.

Igitol said the funding for the wheelchairs, which have a retail price of about \$450 each, came from a grant they received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The director, however, noted that their funding is limited so they do not easily give away mobility devices such as wheelchairs since these are expensive.

"We only provide as much as we can," said Igitol, adding that the most requested devices are grab bars, shower chairs, and canes.

Igitol said the CLI-CNMI currently serves some 129 clients. She noted an increase in the number of clients they serve each year since more and more people are becoming aware of the organization through advertisements and the media.

Freedom Air station manager Dennis K. Cruz expressed his appreciation for the much needed wheelchair donation since they only have one wheelchair for use in assisting their passengers.

"It's really a big help for people who use wheelchairs. Thank you CLI-CNMI for the donation," said Cruz.

## CRIME OF THE WEEK

## Burglary and theft

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at an apartment on Earhart Drive, Gualo Rai.

On Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, around 6:30am, the victim awoke to find a laptop missing from a table in the living room of the apartment. The victim also noticed other items were stolen from the apartment. The missing items were valued at a total of \$3,330.

The suspect(s) gained entry into the apartment through a sliding glass door. The stolen items were last seen in the apartment at about 10:30pm the night before.

Items stolen include a black Samsung laptop computer, a green Samsung cell phone, a red lady's handbag, a pink Gucci lady's purse, a Sony digital camera, and a black electronic dictionary.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com). Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (DPS)

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Feel the difference



**COMMUNITY BRIEFS****Tanapag school sets cub scouts, boy scouts meeting**

The Tanapag Elementary School Cub Scouts Pack 910 and Boy Scout Troop 910 will be having an important meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2010, at 6pm, at the Tanapag Elementary School cafeteria. The agenda will include recruitment of adult leaders, youth protection and safety awareness, money earning project, uniform, and the 2011 CNMI Boy Scouting week activities. There will also be registration for cub scouts (boys ages 7-10) and boy scouts (boys ages 11-17). The registration starts at 5pm at the Tanapag Elementary School. All parents are asked to be present during the registration. For more information about the meeting and the registration, call Oscar C. Camacho at 234-6246 or Calistro I. Reyes at 285-9709. (PR)

**Second Saturday Strides tomorrow**

Bring friends and family and come on down to the Commonwealth Cancer Association's *Second Saturday Strides* this Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010, from Minatchom Atdao to the Quartermaster intersection and back. Enjoy a refreshing

morning run/walk and help raise funds for cancer awareness and patient support programs too. Registration starts at 5:30am, and a \$5 donation fee is requested. All proceeds go to the Commonwealth Cancer Association. Participants who complete the run/walk sample giveaways from Micronesian Brokers, and coupons for delicious fat-free frozen yogurt from Scoops. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email [cca@ccamarianas.org](mailto:cca@ccamarianas.org). (CCA)

**CNMI 2010 Teacher of the Year on Marianas Agupa**

This Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010, Marianas Agupa will feature Raena S. Bermudes, a third grade teacher at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and a recipient of the prestigious 2010 Teacher of the Year award. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former senator David M. Cing from Tinian. Simultaneous Internet streaming via [www.magic100radio.com](http://www.magic100radio.com) will be available. (PR)

**Santa's helpers badly needed for Tinian gift program**

This year's Christmas Give-away program at maia's Helping-Hands Donation Center is desperately in need of volunteer helpers, according to maia, who runs the center.

"So far, the only help I have is three hardworking little girls, who've been helping me set up for it and can only come after school on a few of the Give-away days. But I need at least one helper for each day, from 9am to 1pm and then from 3pm to 6pm, since I can't possibly do it all alone," she said.

The Center will be open daily, at the hours listed above, from this Sunday, Dec. 12, until Christmas Eve, for parents in need to come and select one nice donated gift for each child in the family.

"I have to be in my home side of the duplex, to let them in and explain how it works, so a helper is needed in the Donation Center side, to show them

around and help them select the gifts, and I can't be in both places at once, especially since several families often come at the same time," maia said.

Anyone who can give a few hours of their time for this very worthy and much needed program is asked to call maia at 433-9993 as soon as possible,

so the fifth annual gift program can succeed.

"If I don't have at least one helper for each day, from Dec. 12 until the 24<sup>th</sup>, I may be forced to stay closed during the time I have no helper," maia said, "because at 72 years old, I am just not able to do all of this without any help." (PR)

**BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS**

Happy birthday greetings go out to Joshua Santos Dueñas! Hope you have another good but safe one! Thinking of you on your special day Joe, Thonx and Tricia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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 <b>2003 Ford Focus ZX3</b> <small>STOCK # 3R104315</small> <b>\$7,995<sup>00</sup>*</b>	 <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-5deg); display: inline-block;"><b>SOLD</b></div> <b>2005 Nissan Sentra</b> <small>STOCK # 5L526892</small> <b>\$9,995<sup>00</sup>*</b>	 <b>2007 Ford Escape XLS 2WD</b> <small>STOCK # 7KB45887</small> <b>\$13,995<sup>00</sup>*</b>
 <b>2001 Ford Crown Victoria</b> <small>STOCK # 1X16270</small> <b>\$7,995<sup>00</sup>*</b> <small>(SOLD AS IS)</small>	 <b>2006 Nissan Sentra SE</b> <small>STOCK # 6L514169</small> <b>\$11,995<sup>00</sup>*</b>	 <b>2005 Ford Mustang Coupe</b> <small>STOCK # 55122011</small> <b>\$14,995<sup>00</sup>*</b>
 <b>2001 Honda Prelude</b> <small>STOCK # 1C005458</small> <b>\$9,995<sup>00</sup>*</b> <small>(SOLD AS IS)</small>	 <b>2005 Ford Five Hundred SEL</b> <small>STOCK # 5G103486</small> <b>\$12,995<sup>00</sup>*</b>	 <b>2008 Kia Sedona LX</b> <small>STOCK # 86261071</small> <b>\$17,995<sup>00</sup>*</b>
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# GLUSHKO ACADEMY'S 'THE NUTCRACKER'

## 'Despite hard times, the show must go on'

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tonight and tomorrow night, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts will be staging the ninth edition of its Christmas classic "The Nutcracker & Concert of International Ballet Stars."

For the ballet company's president, Dr. G.S. Oden, this year's production has been the most trying one so far.

For one, he said the temporary closure of Palms Resort Saipan has forced Glushko Academy to move the show to the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

While the venue is more centralized and accessible to motorists than the Marpi hotel, the



International ballet stars Kim Hee Sun and Jeong Han Sol from Korea, Alexey Nasadovich from Russia, and Asama Takai from Japan pose with Glushko Academy of Performing Arts president Dr. G.S. Oden, left, general manager Anna Glushko, second left, and Universal Ballet Co.'s prima ballerina Hye Kyung Lim, right, during a break from practice at the ballet company's office at the Marianas Business Plaza.

MARK RABAGO

move to Garapan carried with it more associated costs like building the stage from scratch.

Oden said when all is added up—plane tickets and accommodations for their four ballet stars, promotion, stage construction, and other miscellaneous expenses—the production cost of this year's "The Nutcracker" will run to about \$40,000.

Couple that with Glushko Academy's declining enrollment—from around 65 a couple of years back, students at the ballet company are now down to 45—Oden said the staging of the annual Christmas classic on Saipan "has truly become a labor of love."

The ballet company's general manager and namesake, Anna Glushko, said she misses the old Hotel Nikko Saipan, but said the reality is that the amphitheater at the American Memorial Park is home for now for "The Nutcracker."

On a positive note, she said the new setup has a bigger stage and audiences can benefit from the cool air descending from the mountains and into the open-air venue.

### Korean prima ballerina in town

This year's production will be graced by two new ballet stars, two returning ones, and the Universal Ballet Co.'s prima ballerina, Hye Kyung Lim.

While she will not be donning her tutu and strapping on her ballet shoes this year, Lim is nonetheless excited to be on Saipan for the first time.

She serves as mentor for Universal Ballet's up-and-coming 18-year-old stars, Kim Hee Sun and Jeong Han Sol.

Glushko said this is the sec-

ond year that Korea's top ballet studio will be loaning their ballet performers to Saipan.

However, unlike last year when Saipan audiences only got to see Universal Ballet's 14-year-old performers, this year Glushko Academy is fortunate enough to have the troupe's two top performers on hand for the show.

Lim said Sun Kim and Jeong, who have been performing since their early teens, will perform such time-honored hits like *Grandpa Classic*, *Le Corsaire*, and *Copellia*.

Not to be outdone, Alexey Nasadovich and Asama Takai will reprise the roles of the Prince and the Sugar Plum Fairy in "The Nutcracker."

Nasadovich, who is on his fourth visit to Saipan, hails from the Yekaterenburg Ballet and Opera Theater, while Takai went to school at the Homura Ballet in Osaka, Japan. It is Takai second year to perform in "The Nutcracker."

The four international ballet stars will be joined in the show by Glushko Academy's 45 students, who according to Glushko, range in age from 3 to 16 years old.

### Two night of arts and culture

Glushko is inviting the island community to partake of two nights of arts and culture with the staging of "The Nutcracker."

She said this is a rare opportunity for folks on Saipan to experience ballet performed by some of the best ballerinas and danseurs in the world.

Glushko expects some 700 to 1,000 community members to watch the two shows.

Oden thanked Glushko Academy's generous sponsors who donated monetary and in-kind donations to make sure this year's production will be a success.

Both Friday and Saturday shows start promptly at 7pm and doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets for children cost only \$10 in advance and \$11 at the door. Adult tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door.

Tickets are available at all Shell gas stations, Gourmet Chinese Restaurant in Garapan, 360 Restaurant in Susupe, EZ-Mart in Gualo Rai, and Kevin's Store in Chalan Kanoa.

For more information, call 483-6271 or email glushkoacademy@yahoo.com.

## Interior provides funding for JSA

WASHINGTON, DC—Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta signed Wednesday a \$306,000 grant award providing support to the Junior Statesmen Foundation.

The grant makes available \$256,000 to bolster recruitment efforts, and provides full tuition and transportation scholarships for 32 participating insular area high school students with a vested interest in the American legal system and government.

The grant includes additional funding to support the Academ-

ic Prep programs at Princeton and Stanford Universities and the JSA Diplomat program.

"Over the last 20 years, the Department of the Interior has partnered with the Junior Statesmen Foundation to enrich the lives of our students in the insular areas. This is a program that rewards academic excellence and fosters a keen understanding and appreciation for government and civic engagement," said Babauta. "This is a worthwhile investment and I am glad our office can continue lending its support." (OIA)

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**SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE:**

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More information and applications can be found at [www.sablan.house.gov](http://www.sablan.house.gov),  
or by calling toll free (877) 446-3465. Applications are due December 15th, 2010.

Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives



# IT&E now part of Shell Lucky 7 Passport Program

» **Fuel, Fly, Phone and Win promo also launched**

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Isla Petroleum and Energy Holding Company Saipan, the island's newest commercial fuel provider after it acquired the assets of Shell North Pacific, is enhancing its Shell Lucky 7 Passport program by partnering with IT&E.

IP&E launched its team up with its sister company for the Shell Lucky 7 Passport in a news briefing yesterday at the Azucena Room of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

"Our partnership with IT&E for the Shell Lucky 7 Passport gives more value to our loyalty program. It was a natural fit," IP&E CNMI area manager Jeff

Boyer told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Shell Lucky 7 Passport is a loyalty program that provides added value to Shell customers by rewarding them with great incentives from a wide variety of partner businesses.

The program works by completing a Lucky 7 Passport that can be obtained from any Shell station with the stamp they receive for every gallon of fuel purchased.

Any customer who completes a Lucky 7 Passport has different redemption options to choose from.

According to Boyer, the preliminary redemption options include \$7 in free gas, \$7 in free C-Store purchases, and 300 miles from Delta SkyMiles.

Now that they have partnered with IT&E, Boyer said Lucky 7 Passport redeemers now have the option to receive \$10 pre-

paid wireless phone cards.

"With this new partnership, we believe we provide great value and offer the most choices for our customers," said Boyer.

## New promo

In addition to the new partnership, IP&E also launched its Fuel, Fly, Phone and Win giveaway promotion.

Those who redeem their completed Lucky 7 Passport or any amount of cash purchase of fuel entitles a customer to an entry form for the promo, which runs from Dec. 9, 2010, to March 9, 2011.

Great prizes at stake are one ton of Shell V-Power Premium Gasoline, 2 Apple iPads with six months free MiFi, 100,000 miles from Delta SkyMiles, a pair of round trip coach tickets to Japan with Mt. Fuji Tour

See IT&E on Next Page



CLARISSA V. DAVID

IP&E executives join representatives from their partner establishments as they announced their team up with IT&E and their newest promotion called Fuel, Fly, Phone & Win. From left, IT&E marketing associate Brad Ruszala, art director Norman del Rosario, marketing coordinator Nola Hix, Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representative Esther Sound, IT&E wireless communication supervisor Veronica Acosta, IP&E marketing manager Jeanette Suzuki, Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representative Chris Concepcion, and IP&E CNMI area manager Jeff Boyer.

# FUEL, FLY, PHONE & WIN!

## The Shell Lucky 7 Program is now even better!

Now you can redeem your Lucky 7 Passport for your choice of the following options:



**\$7 IN FREE FUEL;**



**\$7 IN C-STORE PURCHASES;**



**600 MILES FROM DELTA SKYMILES; OR (DURING PROMOTIONAL PERIOD),**



**\$10 IT&E PREPAID WIRELESS PHONE CARD (NEW)**

No purchase necessary.  
Rules apply. See store for details.



# Lifoifoi re-elected CPA board chair

» **Executive director Deleon Guerrero renewed for \$70K**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has re-elected Jose Lifoifoi as its chairman for the third straight year during yesterday's election of new officers.

Lifoifoi won by acclamation, along with Thomas Kiyu Villagomez and Margarita Prater, who will continue to serve as vice chairman and secretary on

the board. The three were all nominated by board member Benjamin Sablan.

The CPA board has seven members, of which five represent Saipan. Lifoifoi, Villagomez, and Prater are all from Saipan. There is one vacancy, following the expiration of the term of Rota representative Barrie Toves.

Lifoifoi is currently the chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that he also served as CPA chairman for four years until he quit in 2007. He was the House speaker of the 5th CNMI Legislature, having been elected to the House of Representatives three consecutive times before becoming speaker.

Lifoifoi is also the Republic of Palau's honorary consul general to the CNMI.

Each board member also got to keep their current com-

mittees: Sablan will handle the seaports facilities committee; Tinian representative Manny Villagomez retains the airport facilities committee; Fermin Sakisat, personnel affairs committee; and former senator Thomas Villagomez, financial affairs committee.

Lifoifoi said the board is putting on top of its priorities this year the completion of the rehabilitation of the Francisco S. Ada/Saipan International Airport main runway, or runway 7/25.

Funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, the project is set to begin on Dec. 27, with a

target completion of six months.

Lifoifoi pointed out that having a safe and modern runway for big aircrafts will attract more airlines to fly to the CNMI.

At present, there are only three signatory airlines flying to the Commonwealth: Delta Air Lines, Asiana, and Continental Airlines.

The board also renewed the one-year contract of its executive director, Edward Deleon Guerrero, with the same terms and conditions. He is paid \$70,000 per annum, excluding benefits and not subject to austerity measures. His contract was discussed and approved during yesterday's

two-hour executive session. Deleon Guerrero was hired in December last year following the resignation of Efrain Camacho in October 2009.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that because CPA, as an autonomous agency, is covered by the salary cap law, some board members want to review the enabling legislation to see if they can provide a higher salary for the executive director.

But Lifoifoi, when asked for comment yesterday, hinted that adjustment to the executive director's salary may not happen at this time when CPA is dealing with financial constraints.

## IT&E

From Page 18

Package and \$1,000 cash, Droid X and Blackberry Pearl phones, unlimited cell phone airtime for a year, and MiFi wireless internet for a year.

The Fuel, Fly, Phone and Win raffle drawing will be held on March 10, 2011, at the Garapan Street Market.

Customers who choose to redeem their completed Lucky 7 Passport with miles will receive 600 miles from Delta SkyMiles during the promo period.

On top of the newest promotion, all Shell stations will also have other ongoing offers such as Lucky 7 monthly giveaways, great C-store specials, and Lucky 7 Double Stamps with purchase of Shell V-Power Premium Gasoline during the promo period.

"Shell is a respected entity in the community and we show our appreciation to our customers by providing them with great service and promotions," said Boyer.

### Giveaways

IP&E extended its generosity to all attendees of yesterday's

news briefing by holding a raffle draw, giving away various Shell items such as the Shell Premium carry bags and travel bags and the grand prize of a round-trip ticket to Japan.

Rep. George Norita Camacho was the lucky winner of the airline ticket provided by

Delta Air Lines.

Camacho, a regular Shell customer, said he is very happy to win the free ticket since he has not won any raffle draw in his life.

"The partnership of the two companies is a new and exciting venture and something to look forward to," he added.

## Gas up at Shell for your chance to win!

With any cash purchase, receive an entry form for a chance to win! Redeem your Shell Lucky 7 Passport to receive an additional entry form. Turn in your entry form at any Shell station for your chance to win these great prizes:

### FUEL



#### You can win:

- 1 TON Shell V-Power® Premium Gasoline!
- 2 Apple iPads with 6 months FREE MiFi!
- Plus, receive Lucky 7 Double Stamps with every Shell V-Power cash purchase during promotional period.
- Redeem your Lucky 7 Passport & get an additional entry form.

### FLY



#### You can win:

- 100,000 Miles from Delta SkyMiles®!
- A Pair of Round Trip Coach Tickets to Japan with Mt. Fuji Tour Package and \$1,000 cash!

Enter to **WIN**  
thousands of \$\$\$  
in prizes!!!

### PHONE



#### You can win:

- 4 Droid X phones!
- 4 BlackBerry Pearl phones!
- 2 Unlimited Cell Phone Airtime for a year!
- 10 Free Local SMS for a year! (postpaid accounts only)
- 4 MiFi wireless internet for a year!
- 20 - \$20 prepaid cards!

**Now you have even more reasons to gas at Shell.  
Don't delay, gas today!**

Shell Licensee





## Newborn Hearing Screening Program

*All babies get their hearing tested shortly after birth. Ask if your baby passed the test. Track your baby's hearing by looking for these behaviors.*

### BY THREE MONTHS

- ☐ Turn eyes toward interesting sounds
- ☐ Smile when spoken to
- ☐ Stop to listen to speech sounds
- ☐ Cry differently for different needs

### BY SIX MONTHS

- ☐ Turn his or her head in the direction of new sounds
- ☐ Babble a lot of different sounds
- ☐ Respond to his or her name
- ☐ Respond to changes in your tone of voice



**If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, schedule an appointment right away. Call 236-8709**

Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

# Business

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Hackers strike at MasterCard to support WikiLeaks

**LONDON** (AP)—Hackers rushed to the defense of WikiLeaks on Wednesday, launching attacks on MasterCard, Visa, Swedish prosecutors, a Swiss bank and others who have acted against the site and its jailed founder Julian Assange. Internet "hacktivists" operating under the label "Operation Payback" claimed responsibility in a Twitter message for causing severe technological problems at the website for MasterCard, which pulled the plug on its relationship with WikiLeaks a day ago. MasterCard acknowledged "a service disruption" involving its Secure Code system for verifying online payments, but spokesman James Issokson said consumers could still use their credit cards for secure transactions. Later Wednesday, Visa's website was inaccessible. The online attacks are part of a wave of support for WikiLeaks that is sweeping the Internet. Twitter was choked with messages of solidarity for the group, while the site's Facebook page hit 1 million fans. Late Wednesday, Operation Payback itself appeared to run into problems, as many of its sites went down. It was unclear who

was behind the counterattack.

### White House warns tax defeat could trigger new recession

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Raising the direst alarm yet, the Obama administration warned fellow Democrats on Wednesday that if they defeat the big tax-cut compromise detested by many liberals, they could jolt the nation back into recession. President Barack Obama appealed anew for Congress to "get this done" and insisted that more congressional Democrats would climb aboard as they studied details of the \$900 billion year-end measure. Several did announce support on Wednesday, but at least one said there still was "a mood to resist." One Democratic opponent, Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, forecast a result that would abruptly reverse Congress' voting pattern of the first two years of Obama's term: "It will be passed by virtually all the Republicans and a minority of Democrats." He said he would vote against it.

### House Democrats push through massive budget bill

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Democrats controlling the House

muscled through legislation Wednesday night that would freeze the budgets of most Cabinet departments and fund the war in Afghanistan for another year. The bill would cap the agencies' annual operating budgets at the \$1.2 trillion approved for the recently finished budget year—a \$46 billion cut of more than 3 percent from President Barack Obama's request. It includes \$159 billion to prosecute the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq next year and deals a further blow to Obama's efforts to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

### AIG takes key step to pay off largest bailout

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Bailed-out insurance conglomerate American International Group Inc. is taking a key step toward paying off a bailout that was at one point worth \$182 billion—the largest of the financial crisis. The company says in a public filing Wednesday that it will repay a loan from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. AIG says that will clear the way for the Treasury to sell off the government's stake. Treasury's stake in AIG will temporarily rise from roughly 80 percent to 92 percent, as part of the deal.

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Sale end December 10, 2010- January 3, 2011

<b>SAMSUNG U-350</b> CDMA \$45.00	<b>SAMSUNG EXCLAIM-M550</b> CDMA \$169.00	<b>SAMSUNG GALAXY S-1500</b> CDMA \$399.00	<b>SAMSUNG INSTINCT HI-M850</b> CDMA \$219.00	<b>SAMSUNG OMNIA-910</b> CDMA \$169.00	<b>SAMSUNG OMNIA 2</b> CDMA \$229.00	<b>LG VX 5600</b> CDMA \$50.00	<b>LG ALLY 740</b> CDMA \$249.00	<b>LG COSMOS</b> CDMA \$170.00	<b>LG GLANCE VX7100</b> CDMA \$120.00	<b>LG LOTUS</b> CDMA \$155.00	<b>LG 610</b> CDMA \$190.00	<b>LG EN V2-9100</b> CDMA \$159.00
<b>LG EN V3-9200</b> CDMA \$180.00	<b>SANYO 2700</b> CDMA \$75.00	<b>BLACKBERRY 8830</b> CDMA \$140.00	<b>BLACKBERRY CURVE2-8530</b> CDMA \$195.00	<b>BLACKBERRY CURVE 3G-9330</b> CDMA \$240.00	<b>BLACKBERRY STORM2-9550</b> CDMA \$350.00	<b>MOTOROLA DROID-A855</b> CDMA \$340.00	<b>MOTOROLA DROID2-A955</b> CDMA \$399.00	<b>MOTOROLA DROIDX</b> CDMA \$475.00	<b>MOTOROLA DEVOUR-A555</b> CDMA \$225.00	<b>MOTOROLA RIVAL-A455</b> CDMA \$155.00	<b>HTC OZONE VX6175</b> CDMA \$190.00	<b>HTC DROID INCREDIBLE</b> CDMA \$399.00
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# Nation



## Dad of missing Ala. kids charged with murder

**VANCLEAVE, Miss. (AP)**—An Alabama man who told authorities he dumped his two dead children in the woods, then covered them with twigs, was charged Wednesday with two counts of murder after investigators found remains believed to be his 3-year-old son, police said.

Mobile Police Officer Chris Levy said the discovery of a boy's bones about 50 feet off a highway in rural Mississippi gave authorities enough evi-

dence to file the murder charges against John DeBlase, who had been held for child abuse and corpse abuse.

Tests are pending to confirm the identity.

"We believe at this point that he did in fact kill his son" and daughter, Levy said.

John DeBlase and the children's stepmother were arrested last week on lesser charges, and authorities searched for the children's remains in Alabama and Mississippi over the weekend. Neither child had been seen for months.

An investigation into their disappearance didn't start until late

last month after their stepmother, Heather Leavell-Keaton, sought a protective order against DeBlase in Kentucky, Levy said. She said in the Nov. 18 filing that DeBlase "may have murdered his children," and that she feared for her life because he was abusive. The couple just had a child together this summer.

"I am afraid that he is going to do something to harm our daughter because of what he has done to the other children," she wrote.

DeBlase has blamed her for his children's deaths, and police say they're both responsible.

DeBlase, 27, has been assist-

ing police in the search for the bodies. Remains of his 5-year-old daughter Natalie haven't yet been located, but DeBlase told police he dumped her body in the woods north of Mobile in June.

He told investigators he dumped the boy's body in March.

"Everything we found is absolutely consistent with the information he gave to us on what to look for," Levy said.

Levy said the bones were found under twigs and brush in an area known to have bears, coyotes and vultures. The same area had been searched over the weekend.

## Surgeon general: One cigarette is 1 too many

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Think the occasional cigarette won't hurt? Even a bit of social smoking—or inhaling someone else's secondhand smoke—could be enough to block your arteries and trigger a heart attack, says the newest surgeon general's report on the killer the nation just can't kick.

Lung cancer is what people usually fear from smoking, and yes, that can take years to strike. But Thursday's report says there's no doubt that tobacco smoke begins poisoning immediately—as more than 7,000 chemicals in each puff rapidly spread through the body to cause cellular damage in nearly every organ.

"That one puff on that cigarette could be the one that causes your heart attack," said Surgeon General Regina Benjamin.

Or the one that triggers someone else's: "I advise people to try to avoid being around smoking any way that you can," she said.

About 443,000 Americans

die from tobacco-caused illnesses every year. While the smoking rate has dropped dramatically since 1964, when the first surgeon general's report declared tobacco deadly, progress has stalled in the past decade. About 46 million adults—one in five—still smoke, and tens of millions more are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke. The government had hoped to drop the smoking rate to 12 percent by this year, a goal not only missed but that's now been put off to 2020.

Thursday's report is the 30th issued by the nation's surgeons general to warn the public about tobacco's risks.

"How many reports more does Congress need to have to say that cigarettes as a class of products ought to be banned?" asked well-known nicotine expert Dr. K. Michael Cummings of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, who helped to review the report. "One-third of the patients who are in our hospital are here today because of cigarettes."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Pa. couple sought in Calif. man's dismemberment

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A manhunt was under way Wednesday for a Pennsylvania couple accused of killing a man, cutting up his body and stashing the pieces in a backpack and under a bed in their Skid Row hotel room. Edward Garcia Jr., 36, and Melissa Hope Garcia, 25, who also goes by the name of Melissa Turner, are considered armed and dangerous, police Detective Richard Arciniega said. The couple from York, Pa., had several previous arrests for robbery in that state, and investigators believe they were trying to rob Herbert Tracy White on Thanksgiving weekend when the Good Samaritan who had befriended the couple was killed at the Continental Hotel, Arciniega said. Investigators planned to contact Pennsylvania authorities about a similar case in that state in which the victim wasn't killed, Arciniega said. He declined to provide details.

#### GOP blocks legislation to award seniors \$250

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—House and Senate Republicans on Wednesday thwarted Democratic efforts to award \$250 checks to Social Security recipients facing a second consecutive year without a cost-of-living increase. President Barack Obama and Democrats have urged approval of the one-time payment, saying seniors barely getting by on their Social Security checks face undue hardships without the COLA increase. But most Republicans contended that the nation couldn't afford the estimated \$14 billion cost of the payment, and that the COLA freezes in 2010 and 2011 come after seniors received a significant boost in 2009.

## The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities in Collaboration with CNMI Assistive Technology Program Presents:

# 2010 Assistive Technology Fair

*'Funding sources for Assistive  
Technology and/or Services'*

**Saturday, December 11, 2010  
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Tinian Dynasty,  
Tinian  
(Tinian Room)**

**Activities for the  
day include:**

- Registration
- Assistive Technology Overview
- Trankilu Alternative Financing Program
- Exhibitor Display (Vendors)
- Assistive Technology Devices Showcase
- Assistive Technology Demonstration
- Center for Independent Living



For more Information and Registration inquiries, please contact:  
Ray Diaz at 664-7002 or CDD at 664-7000/1/2  
Special Accommodation should be arranged with CDD seven (7) days before the event.

This advertisement was paid for with AT Act Grant Funding



# World

## US military leader chides China over NKorea crisis

**TOKYO** (AP)—Turning up the pressure on China over the military crisis on the Korean peninsula, the top U.S. military chief said Thursday that Beijing has failed to live up to its role as a global power by not doing enough to defuse tensions.

Adm. Mike Mullen, on a brief stopover in Tokyo after visiting Seoul, said it is imperative China do more to lead North Korea away from escalating the threat of an all-out war, which he said would be calamitous.

North Korea launched a recent artillery attack on an island near a disputed border area that killed four South Koreans and is blamed for the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship in March.

"China must lead and guide North Korea to a better future," said Mullen, who is chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. "There is too much at stake for this sort of myopia."

"There is no country in the world that has more influence in Pyongyang than China," he said. "That's part of responsible leadership. That's part of being a global power. And I would hope they heed this call and do that."

North Korea, which has few other allies, depends heavily on China for economic assistance and diplomatic support. China fought on North Korea's side

during the 1950-53 Korean war.

Beijing has been cautious in placing blame or deciding punishments for the skirmish and warship sinking, and has instead called for all sides to exercise restraint. China has suggested more multilateral talks to deal with North Korea's actions and concerns over its ongoing effort to develop nuclear weapons.

China has also been critical of U.S. military exercises in the Yellow Sea that were conducted after the artillery attack, in part to send Pyongyang a message of U.S.-South Korean cooperation and resolve not to be cowed by North Korean belligerency.

Beijing was wary of the exercises because they took place relatively close to Chinese shores.

Mullen defended the exercises as "transparent," said they were planned well in advance of the increased tensions, and added that the U.S. has the right to operate in open seas.

He also said he believed that U.S. allies in the region should carry out more multilateral maneuvers. In particular, he said he supports Japan joining in drills with the U.S. and South Korea.

Mullen said the lack of military-to-military ties between Beijing and Washington is another source of insecurity.

## Philippine leader blasts court corruption ruling

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—President Benigno Aquino III lashed out Wednesday at a Supreme Court decision rejecting an investigative body he created to look into alleged corruption during his predecessor's administration, vowing his anti-graft battle would not be deterred by the setback.

The Supreme Court declared on Tuesday that Aquino's first executive order that created a "Truth Commission" was unconstitutional because it unfairly singled out his predecessor Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government for a wide-ranging corruption investigation. A

majority of the justices on the 15-member tribunal were appointed by Arroyo, who left office in June.

The decision sends a signal that large-scale corruption pays, an irate Aquino said.

"Everybody will now be tempted because you can steal these gargantuan amounts of money and you can smile your way to the bank and enjoy your loot out of people's misery," Aquino told a televised news conference.

Aquino, son of revered democracy icons, won a landslide election victory in May, promising to battle pervasive

corruption and widespread poverty.

He said he created the five-member commission "to put a closure to what was said to be one of the darkest chapters of our history," adding he would never stop his anti-corruption battle.

"I don't surrender when I know I'm right," Aquino said.

A battery of lawyers will review the court decision to determine whether the government will appeal or amend the presidential order that created the commission. In the Philippines, the Supreme Court allows losing parties to appeal within 15 days before issuing

a final ruling.

A few weeks before her term ended, Arroyo appointed the current Supreme Court chief justice, Renato Corona, her former chief of staff and spokesman. Aquino questioned Corona's appointment and refused to take his oath as president before him as tradition dictated.

The feud between the president and chief justice has fueled fears of a possible constitutional crisis.

Although he did not mention Arroyo by name, Aquino cited a number of corruption and vote-rigging scandals to which his predecessor has been linked.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Gbagbo defiant as calls to step down mount

**ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast** (AP)—The noose of international pressure tightened further around Laurent Gbagbo as the U.N. Security Council deliberated a statement and the U.N. envoy in Ivory Coast said Gbagbo's challenger had won last month's presidential election by an "irrefutable margin." Gbagbo has shut himself off from the international community, defying French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who called to urge him to step down, and refusing to take a telephone call this weekend from U.S. President Barack Obama. The 65-year-old former university instructor is being threatened with sanctions and isolation, even as his government flooded the airwaves with images of his rushed inauguration and explanations by constitutional experts laying out why Gbagbo is the lawful president.

#### Fire during Chile prison brawl kills at least 81

**SANTIAGO, Chile** (AP)—A fire started during an inmate brawl swept through an overcrowded prison Wednesday, killing at least 81 people and seriously injuring 14. Chileans heard the screams of inmates after a prisoner using a contraband cell phone called state television for help. The early morning blaze at San Miguel prison, which preliminary reports indicated may have been intentionally set, was the worst disaster in the history of Chile's penitentiary system, Health Minister Jaime Manalich said. The fire began during fighting between inmates and reached its maximum intensity in just three minutes, Interior Minister Rodribo Hinzpeter said. It was brought under control in three hours.

#### Mexican drug lord appears on teachers' payroll

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—An alleged drug cartel leader appears on the Mexican government's 2010 teacher payroll as part of the staff of an elementary school in a rural town, according to the federal education department's website. Payroll documents posted on the website show that checks totaling about \$4,000 were issued to Servando Gomez, a reputed leader of the La Familia cartel, during the first three months of the year for teaching at Melchor Ocampo Elementary School in his hometown of Arteaga in Michoacan state. Michoacan's education department said its files show that they began canceling payment checks to Gomez in June 2009, when the department conducted "a thorough review of its payroll," the department said in a statement.

**Have a Safe Holiday Season.**



**National/CNMI Holiday Season  
Impaired Driving Month  
November 29, 2010 through January 3, 2011**

**CLICK IT OR TICKET  
DAY & NIGHT**

**DRUNK DRIVING  
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.**

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LIFE JUST  
CHANGED.**

**Drive drunk and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.**





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
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 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS



This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2011. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
9. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
10. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
11. Company background
12. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
13. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

**FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 15, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."**

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO

**NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.**

# Off The Wall

## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

### Utah lottery winners keep winning ticket in safe

**BOISE, Idaho (AP)**—A family holding an Idaho Lottery ticket worth \$1 million wasn't taking any chances while traveling from their home in Brigham City, Utah, to claim their winnings in Boise. Sisters Cindy Flint and Carol Olsen, along with their mother Donna Flint, made the nearly 300-mile trip to Idaho with their ticket locked in a fire-proof safe. Cindy Flint says she went a step further, and slept with the safe in her hotel bed. The women claimed their prize Monday. The women bought their ticket at a store in Franklin, Idaho, near the state border with Utah.

### 250 skiing Santas dash through snow in Maine

**NEWRY, Maine (AP)**—Hundreds of skiing Santas were dashing through the snow at a Maine ski resort over the weekend. Sunday River says 250 skiers and snowboarders signed up for its 11th annual Santa Sunday event, with registration filling up in 12 minutes. For the event, skiers got a free lift ticket if they came dressed as Santa and donated \$10 or more to the Bethel Rotary Club's annual drive to provide

gifts for the area's children in need. They also got an additional lift ticket valid through Dec. 18.

### What's in a name? Man goes from Smith to Awesome

**EUGENE, Ore. (AP)**—An Oregon man has had an Awesome name change. Douglas Allen Smith Jr. says he changed his name to Captain Awesome last month because he was inspired by the nickname of a character on the NBC television show "Chuck"—Dr. Devon "Captain Awesome" Woodcomb. The unemployed Eugene cabinet installer says he found it funny Woodcomb's father gave him that nickname because a "poor nickname builds good character." The former Mr. Smith says he faced a Lane County judge who questioned his seriousness. The judge that granted the request made him swear he wasn't changing his name for fraudulent reasons. Awesome says that judge also allowed him to sign his name as a right arrow, a smiley face and a left arrow. He says his bank, however, has refused to accept the signature because it could be forged too easily.

### Prodigal kitty returns home 5 years after Katrina

**BILOXI, Miss. (AP)**—Five years after wandering away in

Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, a gray and white cat named Scrub has been reunited with his Mississippi family. The Humane Society of South Mississippi says Scrub was identified by an implanted microchip. The 7-year-old cat was brought to the shelter by a Gulfport woman who'd fed him as a stray the past couple of months but worried about his safety during a cold snap. Scrub's owner, Jennifer Noble, tells The Sun Herald newspaper that she was skeptical at first when she received a call from the shelter. But by the end of the first night back, Scrub had snuggled in bed with one of her boys. The woman who'd been feeding him lives about 15 miles away. Noble says Scrub is in excellent condition.

### Police: Ga. college instructor stripped in class

**KENNESAW, Ga. (AP)**—Students in a Kennesaw State University business class got an anatomy lesson. Campus police say a part-time instructor took his clothes off while teaching a class at the suburban Atlanta college late last month. Police arrested 57-year-old Raymond Devaughn Taylor of Kennesaw on Monday and charged him with public indecency after a student reported what happened to university officials.



## AYUDA NETWORK, INC.

An Alliance of Northern Marianas Human/Social Service Providers

*"DOING THINGS BETTER TOGETHER"*

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Ayuda Network, Inc., and Marianas Walking Association and its community partners would like to extend their thanks to MOBIL for their generous donation for the **10th Annual "Don't Be A Turkey...WALK"**. The Turkey Walk is an annual event to promote physical activity after Thanksgiving Holiday and to entice adults, youths, and families to stay physically active and fight diabetes and obesity in the CNMI.



**THANK YOU, MOBIL! Together, we CAN prevent diabetes.**

**SEASONS GREETINGS!**



## Si Yu'us Ma'asi' – Ghilisoo

On behalf of the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your valuable support and commitment to the success of our First Annual Community Forum.

Governor's Office  
 Mayor's Office  
 Laolao Bay Golf & Resort  
 Pacific Health Inc. Pharmacy (PHI)  
 Marianas Eye Institute  
 Hardt Eye Clinic  
 Comprehensive Cancer Control Program  
 Commonwealth Cancer Association  
 HIV/STD Treatment & Prevention  
 DPH Community Guidance Center-Tobacco  
 DPH Diabetes Prevention and Control Program  
 DPH Women, Infant, Children Program  
 Department of Public Health  
 DPH Breast & Cervical Cancer Program  
 NMI Humanities Council-Motherhead/Fatheread  
 Domestic Violence Intervention Center  
 DYS-Parent Ed. Program-Children Services Volunteers  
 Coca Cola Beverage Company  
 Ayuda Network, Inc.  
 Tan Holdings Inc./D & Q Company/Tan Sui Lin Foundation  
 Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System Inc. (NMPASI)

Daisy Mendiola Family Volunteers  
 Beach Road Magazine  
 Marianas Variety News  
 Joeten Enterprises  
 National Office Supply  
 CNMI Homeland Security  
 CNMI Dev. Disabilities Council  
 First Hawaiian Bank  
 Public School System  
 HAFA Cast LLC  
 IT & E  
 XO Market  
 Pacific Islands Club  
 Dolphin Wholesale  
 NMC CREES  
 Herman's Modern Bakery  
 Hinemlo-Familia  
 Joeten Kiyu Public Library  
 Kagman Elementary School  
 Kagman ES Principal Ignacia T. Demapan

ALL PARTICIPANTS FROM KAGMAN RESIDENTS,  
 I' DENT', PAPAGO', AS TEO, AND CAPITOL HILL.

*Season's Greetings*





**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director  
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building • P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**CUC-RFP-11-009**

**Loan Servicing and Customer Account Financing**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide loan servicing and customer account financing for Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope-of-Work may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

**One (1) original and Seven (7) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-11-009, Loan Servicing and Customer Account Financing”** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM, (CHST) local time on **December 21, 2010**. Late submission will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on December 14, 2010 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net); Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email [charles\\_warren@cucgov.net](mailto:charles_warren@cucgov.net) and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email [mika\\_muna@cucgov.net](mailto:mika_muna@cucgov.net). CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the sol

**ABE UTU MALAE**  
Executive Director



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



**INVITATION FOR BID**  
**CUC-IFB-11-013 (RE-BID OF CUC-IFB-11-006)**

**SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF POLE MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Pole Mounted Transformers for the CUC Power Division in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

**One (1) original and Six (6) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-11-013, Supply & Delivery of Pole Mounted Transformers”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid security may be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to CUC. The surety company shall hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **December 30, 2010** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net) with a copy to Mr. John Onedera, Power Division Engineer- [johno@cucgov.net](mailto:johno@cucgov.net) and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - [mika\\_muna@cucgov.net](mailto:mika_muna@cucgov.net).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ **UTU ABE MALAE**  
Executive Director

**Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana**  
**Ofisinan I Gubietno**  
**Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSIONS FOR PUBLIC LAND**

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extensions of leases on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These lease extensions are subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises are described as public land Lot Nos. 057 E 09, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, and 057 E 10, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, both situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is South Pacific Lumber Company, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are James C. Whang and Charles C. Whang.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is James C. Whang. The Vice President is Charles C. Whang.

- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. James C. Whang.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating warehouses, office spaces and show rooms.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 24, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

**NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO' PUPBLIKU**

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku guini ha nã'i notisia ni intesion-na para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tãno' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapreban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamãnda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerãt siha na na'hãlom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tãno' pupbliku. Sigi mãs mo' na mapribeniya ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen infotmasion ni madimãnda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugãt atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano' pupbliku Lot Nos. 057 E 09, kinonsiste ãrian kãsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mãs, yan 057 E10, kinonsiste ãria kãsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mãs, parehu gaige gi Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugãt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikonosimientu.
- ii. I manatikikila i Kompanian i South Pacific Lumber, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot i Corporation siha si James C. Whang yan si Charles C. Whang.

I Presidente/sekritãrio/Tresureron i Corporation si James C. Whang. I Segundo na Presidente si Charles C. Whang.

- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot James C. Whang.
- iv. I manatikikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugãt siha uniku para i rason i maneran warehouses, kãmpo ofisina siha yan show rooms.

I teman i kontrãtan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 ãños.

I mapropone na atkilon sãkkan durãnten i tema sigun i percentaje gi bãlen i fair market value gi propiadãt siha.

- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontrãta siha siha machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha, gaige i segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha tãya' ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon tãno' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritãrion i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha debi na u akseptu i tinige' i infotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ãntes di Disembre 24, 2010 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

**ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP**

Sãngi Tãlil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammatat igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Kkapasal akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge ebwe alughulugh mereel Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature sangi Article XI, Talil 5(c) mellól Allegħ Lapalap Commonwealth Teel faluw kka faluwasch Efang Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiighiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoor, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 057 E 09, eyoor eluuw sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3, 245 square meters), elapéló me ngäre eghús, me 057 E 10, eyoor eluuw sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3,245 square meters) elap me ngäre eghus, elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéshchéél schóól akkilon nge South Pacific Lumber Company, CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge James C. Whang me Charles C. Whang..

Samwoolul/Treasurer/Sekkretorial corporation nge James C. Whang. Aruscheyil samwool nge Charles Whang.

- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. James C. Whang..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel ammwelil warehouse (sokko), office spaces (leliyal bwulasiyo) me leliyal akkate (show rooms)..

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sãngi llapal méél falúw ( value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellól bwuley yeel.

- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songson, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal December 24, 2010 (Tumwur) mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.



# Science & Technology

## Gift guide: Consoles to bring out the gamer in you

By BARBARA ORTUTAY  
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)**—With two new motion controllers out this fall, video game companies are giving even the most hand-eye-coordination challenged of us a chance to find our inner gamer. And for those who already have, lower-priced console bundles and an experimental game streaming platform can be reason enough to get a second—or third—gaming system this holiday season.

Here's a handy rundown of what's out there, how much it costs and who might want it:

### ■ KINECT FOR XBOX 360 FROM MICROSOFT CORP.

This is the futuristic motion controller from Microsoft Corp. It removes remotes entirely from the gaming experience. Kinect is



In this Nov. 4, 2010 file photo, Microsoft's Kinect controller, seen in foreground, allows the user to control the Xbox 360 during game play. AP

basically a fancy camera that tracks your movements, hand gestures and voice. It can also recognize faces and scan in objects so you can use them in certain games. For now, two people can play simultaneously, though that will likely change as more games are developed. This holiday season, retailers are also bundling Kinect with a low-end version of the

Xbox 360 at a discount.

**Good for:** Families with young kids, anyone averse to games with lots of buttons and complex controls. Wii graduates or anyone who's been meaning to get a Wii all this time and just never got around to it.

**Not so good for:** Dorm-bound college students and city dwellers in tiny apartments, as Kinect needs at least 6 feet—though more is better—between it and the players to work. Hardcore gamers could go either way, so best to check first.

**Cost:** \$150 for the standalone Kinect camera system, or \$300

for the Kinect with a 4 gigabyte Xbox 360. Both come with a game, "Kinect Adventures."

**Must-have game:** "Dance Central" (\$50)

### ■ PLAYSTATION MOVE FROM SONY CORP.

Sony says it had considered selling a controller-free controller a la Kinect but then thought better of it. Many games, it turns out, simply work better when you are holding a remote in your hand. Sony Corp.'s Move is that remote, at least if you are a PlayStation 3 fan. It blends motion controls pioneered by Nintendo Co.'s Wii with the complex but entirely useful controls of a traditional game controller.

**Good for:** Wii owners ready to move on to high-definition games and first-person shooters, though for now the bulk of Move games are more limited to more "casual" titles. Families or roommates who want to play together or watch Blu-ray movies are also a good bet.

**Not so good for:** Xbox fanatics, hardcore gamers who want a pile of new titles to check out right away for Move might be disappointed with the selection.

**Cost:** \$100 for a bundle that includes the PlayStation Eye camera, one Move controller and a game, "Sports Champions." For \$400 total, you get all that plus a 320 gigabyte PlayStation 3.

### ■ NINTENDO WII AND ACCESSORIES

To celebrate 25 years of Super Mario, Nintendo is selling a limited edition red version of the Wii this holiday season, which could make for a good gift for anyone on your list obsessed with this classic video game icon. The console comes with a red controller and two games—"Wii Sports" and "Super Mario Bros. Wii"—for the same price as a regular, white Wii system.



In this product image provided by Nintendo, the Nintendo Wii is displayed. AP

A great new accessory this year is the uDraw GameTablet from THQ Inc. It's essentially a mini art studio that lets players of all ages paint,

doodle and color using a small tablet and an attached stylus.

**Good for:** Kids, families ready to graduate from the now very old PlayStation 2, little brothers and little sisters.



In this Sept. 14, 2010 file photo, the Sony PlayStation Move, a new wireless controller for the PlayStation 3 video game console, is shown. AP

OnLive, a promising startup that has come up with a way to stream video games through an Internet connection, much like how Netflix shows movies online. The console plugs into players' TV sets and comes with a generic wireless controller for traditional shooter video games. Players can rent or buy video games to download, watch live game play by other gamers and upload perfectly played sessions called "brag clips" for others to admire.

**Good for:** Adventurous gamers with their eye on the next big thing. Budget-minded gamers who want to try before they buy. OnLive offers short-term game rentals for a fee.

**Not so good for:** Players into more casual games or the Wii; those averse with the traditional game controllers. Anyone with weak Internet service at home. Your broadband connection must be at least 3 megabits per second near your TV set, though 5 or more megabits are recommended. Cable modems will easily exceed this but some DSL subscribers could have problems.

**Cost:** \$99 for the console. There is a Netflix-style "all-you-can-play" service for \$10 per month, though the games available through it are older. Separately, games are available to rent for three or five days for about \$5 to \$9. Buying games for unlimited play costs the same as a traditional hard copy for a console or PC.

**Must-have game:** "Assassin's Creed II" (\$30)



In this product image provided by Onlive, the Onlive MicroConsole is displayed. AP

## Death Announcement Nicanor A. Bocago

Better known as "Nick"

Born: April 14, 1927 Died: December 8, 2010

Humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Rosary of intention is being offered at 7:30 pm at Bocago's residence in Koblerville.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yuus Maase, and Salamat Po.

Children & Family

## How to track down elusive MS Office key

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION:** My PC came preloaded with Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2007. I activated Windows 7 online, but when I tried to use Microsoft Word, I was told to enter a 25-character product key. I found a product key on the bottom of the PC, but when I typed it in I was told it was invalid. Any advice?—Jay Arthur, Minneapolis

**ANSWER:** It sounds as if the product key you found goes with Windows 7, not Office 2007. The Office product key is hidden in one of two other places: If your computer came with an Office 7 disk, you'll find the product key on a sticker inside of the CD case or the manual. If the Office 2007 software came on the PC without a disk, Microsoft typically e-mails you a key.

If you can't find the product key in either of these places, there's a third place where it's hidden, a database of settings called the Registry. But you need to use a "key finder

program" to locate and decode it. Try the free version of Magical Jelly Bean Keyfinder, which you can find at <http://tinyurl.com/22o9qgs/>.

**Q:** I used the Malwarebytes program you suggested and found a virus. Now I want to know what's running on my PC. What files run during Windows XP start-up, and where do they come from?—Sue Parsons, Ottawa, Canada

**A:** I hope you like bizarre file names. To learn the sequence in which an alphabet soup of programs, such as "boot.ini" (contains PC configuration options), are loaded during Windows XP start-up, see <http://tinyurl.com/327jzfy/>. To see which background programs, or processes, run during normal PC operations, find them by clicking the Ctrl, Alt and Delete keys simultaneously, then selecting the "processes" tab. Then compare their odd names, such as "svchost.exe" (decides what the PC ought to be doing at any given moment) to a list of process definitions at <http://tinyurl.com/1yy4/>.

**Q:** My Windows XP PC, a four-year-old Compaq Presario with 512 megabytes of RAM (random access memory), is very slow. Quite often the RAM is 100 percent used up. Any suggestions?—Agnar Johanson, Ottawa

**A:** You need more RAM memory; the amount you have is just barely enough to run today's software. You can upgrade your PC or buy a new one.

You can upgrade your PC to 3 gigabytes of RAM, which you can buy online and install yourself for less than \$150. (See <http://tinyurl.com/28guyt/>.) A repair shop is likely to charge more than \$200 for parts and labor.

For less than \$400, you can buy a new desktop PC with 3 GB of RAM, better graphics, faster speed and a newer operating system.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.



# Life & Style

## HIV-positive LA porn actor calls for condom use

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A clinic frequented by porn stars stood by findings that an adult film actor contracted HIV through personal sexual activity, contradicting his claims that he was infected through work.

Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation spokeswoman Jennifer Miller said Wednesday that the San Fernando Valley clinic stands by its testing, which resulted in the quarantine of an unknown number of actors and found no other cases of the disease.

"It's going to come down to 'he said, she said,'" said Miller.

At a news conference Wednesday, Derrick Burts came

forward for the first time since news of his illness rattled the multibillion dollar adult film industry and shut down a handful of productions for several weeks earlier this year.

Burts, previously known as Patient Zeta, said he was identifying himself after reading last month that Miller said his illness was contracted outside the porn industry "through private, personal activity." Productions resumed after Miller's announcement.

Burts said that he was faithful to his HIV-negative girlfriend except for his work, and that he believes he was infected during a shoot in Flor-



ida. He said he used condoms for intercourse, but they aren't foolproof and he may have contracted the disease through other on-camera sexual contact.

The boyishly handsome 24-year-old, who performed in straight films as Cameron Reid and gay films as Derek Chambers, broke down in tears while recalling the frustration he felt after his diagnosis.

The clinic failed to return calls, e-mails and text messages for weeks, Burts said, adding: "I felt neglected. AIM wasn't there to protect me."

Burts said instead of providing the follow-up he needed, Miller, who is also the clinic's HIV/STD counselor, advised him to avoid media, change his phone number and leave town.

In a statement, lawyers for AIM said Patient Zeta was offered counseling, test results and information on how to get treatment.

"Any statements made by Patient Zeta which portray AIM as not providing appropriate and proper services are not truthful and are self-serving," the clinic's statement said.

Adult film actor Derrick Burts, 24, who tested positive for HIV, speaks during a news conference, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010, in Los Angeles. **AP**

## Fans remember John Lennon 30 years after his death

**NEW YORK (AP)**—John Lennon's fans celebrated his life Wednesday by visiting Strawberry Fields, the Central Park garden dedicated in his honor, while a newly released interview he gave shortly before his death showed he was optimistic about his future.

On the 30th anniversary of Lennon's murder outside his Manhattan apartment building, admirers played his music nearby at Strawberry Fields and placed flowers on a mosaic named for his song "Imagine."

The steady stream of visitors represented the range of people who love Lennon, from those who watched his career unfold as it happened to those who know only his music.

Father-daughter pair Paul DeLuca, 50, and Marissa DeLuca, 17, came from Boston to mark the day.



In this magazine cover image of Rolling Stone, former Beatle John Lennon is shown on the cover of the Dec. 23, 2010 issue of "Rolling Stone."

"I grew up with his voice," said Marissa DeLuca.

"The Beatles are the soundtrack to my childhood," she said. "His voice is just kind of like home."

Her father said, "Nothing is timeless like the stuff John and Paul (McCartney) wrote."

In Liverpool, where Lennon was from, hundreds were expected to gather for a vigil Wednesday around the Peace and Harmony sculpture, recently unveiled by Lennon's former wife, Cynthia, and their son Julian in Chavasse Park.

In the newly released interview, conducted just three days before he was gunned down, John

Lennon complained about his critics—saying they were just interested in "dead heroes"—and mused that he had "plenty of time" to accomplish some of his life goals.

## Doors' Morrison gets votes needed for Fla. pardon

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)**—The Doors' Jim Morrison will get a posthumous pardon Thursday for an indecent exposure conviction in Florida that resulted when the late singer pulled what a bandmate called "a mind trip on the audience, and they totally fell for it."

Gov. Charlie Crist on Wednesday got a commitment for the second of two votes needed from other members of the state's Board of Executive Clemency to approve the pardon.

Morrison was appealing the conviction when he was found dead in a Paris bathtub in 1971. The meeting Thursday comes a day after the singer would have turned 67.

Crist can't issue a pardon on his own. He and the three-



**Morrison**

member Cabinet serve as the Clemency Board. Approval is required by the governor and at least two other members.

Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, who was previously undecided, said Wednesday that she would vote for the pardon, said Sink spokesman Kevin Cate. She joined Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bron-

son who previously declared his support for the idea. Only Attorney General Bill McCollum remains uncommitted. All are leaving office Jan. 4.

The did-he-or-didn't-he debate has been revived by Crist's interest in the case. The surviving band members say a drunken Morrison teased the Miami crowd, but never exposed himself.

"It never actually happened. It was mass hypnosis," said Ray Manzarek, The Doors' keyboard player.

Manzarek and guitarist Robby Krieger said Morrison's behavior was influenced by an acting troupe that disrobed during plays. "He was just doing a mind trip—as they would say—a mind trip on the audience and they totally fell for it," Manzarek said.

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**NOW SHOWING**



**The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader**

Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30  
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30  
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15  
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

**Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes**  
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

### Synopsis

Upon returning to Narnia to join Prince Caspian for a voyage on the majestic royal vessel known as The Dawn Treader, Lucy, Edmund, and their cousin Eustace encounter merfolk, dragons, dwarves, and a wandering band of lost warriors. As the edge of the world draws near, their remarkable adventure at sea sails toward an exciting, yet uncertain, conclusion.



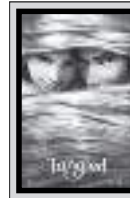
**The Warrior's Way**

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50  
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50  
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10  
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10

**Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush**  
Action • Rated R

### Synopsis

Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush, Danny Huston, and Jang Dong-gun star in this visually inventive hybrid martial arts Western tracing the adventures of an Asian assassin who must fight for his life while hiding out in the Wild West.



**Tangled**

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40  
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40  
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20  
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20

**Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi**  
Children's, Family • Rated PG

### Synopsis

The classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale gets a lavish CG makeover as directors Glen Keane and Dean Wellins team to tell the tale of a fair-haired beauty with long-flowing locks, a gallant hero with a heart of gold, and the evil witch who plots to keep these lovelorn innocents apart.



**Faster**

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55  
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55  
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30  
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

**Dwayne Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton**  
Action, Drama • Rated R



**Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows 1**

Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00  
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00  
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00  
Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00

**Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson**  
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG 13



**Burlesque**

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45  
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45  
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05  
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

**Cher, Christina Aguilera**  
Musical • Rated PG 13



**Unstoppable**

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35  
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35  
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25  
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

**Denzel Washington, Chris Pine**  
Action • Rated PG 13

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# Playboy art sold at NYC auction

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A Dali watercolor of a reclining nude that hung in Hugh Hefner's bedroom was among 125 artworks Playboy magazine offered at Christie's on Wednesday.

It was one of 11 works chosen for "The Playmate as Fine Art" pictorial for the magazine's January 1967 Playmate review issue that asked artists to create Playmate-inspired art. The nude sold for \$266,500, above its presale estimate of \$100,000 to \$150,000, to an anonymous buyer.

Another top draw was an iconic, sexually charged oil of a scarlet-lipstick mouth by pop artist Tom Wesselmann. "Mouth No. 8" sold for \$1,874,500 to an anonymous buyer. The 1966 work had been estimated to bring \$2 million to \$3 million.

Aaron Baker, curator of the Playboy Art Collection, called it a great example of Wesselmann's work "from his best period."

The sale included 80 photographs, more than a dozen contemporary works and 24 cartoons. Nearly all the items in the sale have appeared in the publication, a cultural icon that helped liberate American sexual mores.

In an interview last month from his Los Angeles mansion, founder and editor-in-chief Hugh Hefner said the magazine that has entertained, titillated and informed with its commissioned

art has blurred the lines between fine and popular art.

"Playboy helped to change the very direction of commercial art—breaking down the wall between fine art and commercial art," the 84-year-old Hefner said. "Before Playboy and a few other places, commercial art was essentially Norman Rockwell, very realistic. And we introduced into commercial illustration the whole notion of everything from abstract to semiabstract to stuff that you found on a gallery wall."

The sale represented only a fraction of Playboy's historic art.

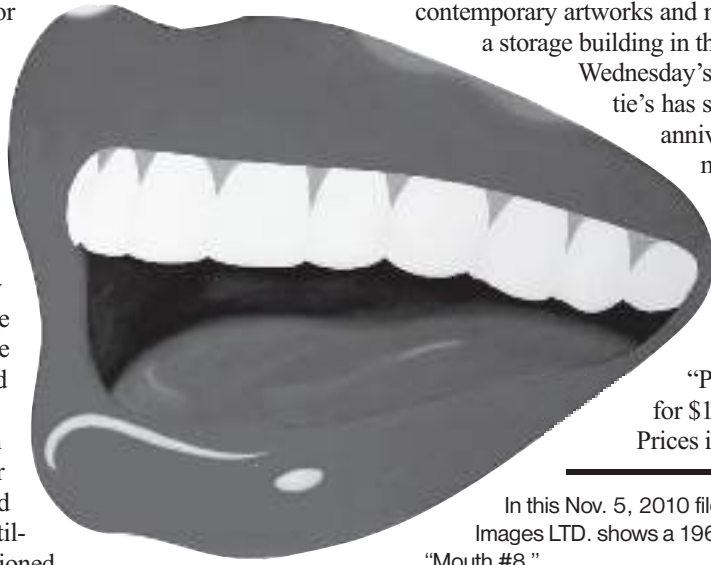
Baker said the Chicago-based Playboy houses an archive of 5,000 contemporary artworks and more than 20 million photographs in a storage building in the city.

Wednesday's sale marked the second time Christie's has sold items from Playboy. On its 50th anniversary in 2003, Christie's offered memorabilia and ephemera from Playboy's collection.

Not all the material focused on the erogenous.

A white plaster cast by George Segal of a pregnant woman seated in a folding chair that was part of the "Playmate of Fine Art" pictorial sold for \$170,500.

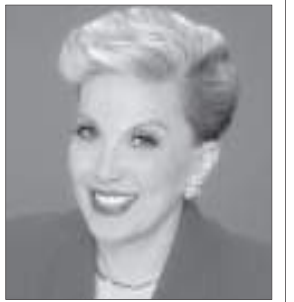
Prices included the buyers premium.



In this Nov. 5, 2010 file photo, a picture provided by Christie's Images LTD. shows a 1967 oil painting by Tom Wesselmann titled "Mouth #8."

## Husband protests against woman's wedding boycott

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband "Zak" and I have been married five years. His brother "Tom" has never liked me. In fact, he went out of his way to ruin our wedding. Just before the ceremony he feigned a dramatic illness, yelled obscenities at my aunt for taking pictures and refused to wear his dress shirt or tie. Abby, he was a groomsman.

Tom is being married this spring to a woman who likes me even less than he does. I want no part of their wedding, nor do I even want to attend. Zak insists that I go and be "civil." Is my husband right? Should I swallow my feelings and go to the wedding, or am I justified in sitting this one out?

THE "BLACK SHEEP" IN-LAW

**DEAR B.S.I.L:** While I understand your feelings, my advice is to go to the wedding and be civil. Don't do it for Tom and his fiancée. Do it for your husband. Considering the way your brother- and sister-in-law-to-be appear to feel about you, you won't have to tolerate their company often, so count your blessings.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I had an affair with a married man for about nine months. I broke it off after finally realizing it wasn't going anywhere and he was lying to me about his intentions. Part of me wants him to feel pain for his actions. I want to contact his spouse anonymously and tell him not to trust him. Most of my friends advise against this, while a few tell me to go ahead. What do you think?

JOHN IN SAN FRANCISCO

**DEAR JOHN:** Please do not represent yourself as an example of injured and outraged virtue "done wrong" by a married man. You knew he was married and you were a willing participant. If you insist on contacting your lover's spouse and causing pain, have the testicular fortitude to identify yourself. To do so anonymously would be cowardly.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** A couple of years ago my son went away to school and met a girl from another state who had no family or friends here. "Celia" was adopted as a baby and didn't get along well with her adoptive family. When my son returned home, Celia came with him—engaged. Our family accepted her into our home and our hearts.

When their engagement was called off, because Celia had nowhere to go, she moved in with me and my husband. She continued to live with us until she met someone and they were married. She is close to my other kids, especially my two daughters.

Celia recently gave birth to a baby boy. She refers to me as his grandma, which pleases me greatly. I have two other grandchildren whom I adore. My question is, how do I explain to people who ask, when I have the baby, who he is? When I say "my grandson," they ask me from which of my kids. That leads to a long, drawn-out explanation I don't always feel like makin

FULL OF LOVE IN MISSOURI

**DEAR FULL OF LOVE:** Why not say, "My honorary grandson"? And if you are questioned further, add, "His mother is like a daughter to me."

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

## Jackson: Aretha Franklin 'recovering very well'

**DETROIT (AP)**—Aretha Franklin underwent serious surgery last week and is "recovering very well," her longtime friend, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, said Wednesday.

Jackson said in an interview with The Associated Press that he's visited with the legendary singer four or five times recently, including a few days ago, and that Franklin's "spirits

are high, and her faith is strong."

"She's conscious, communicating and taking daily walks up and down the hall," said Jackson, who accompanied Franklin on one of those walks during his most recent visit.

Franklin announced last week that she had undergone a surgical procedure, but neither she nor her

publicist have said what is ailing the 68-year-old Queen of Soul.

Jackson wouldn't either, other than to say his friend of more than 40 years is responding well to the surgery.

"She has amazing strength—body, religion and faith," Jackson said. "It's what he keeps her going."

### Screenwriter takes Palin to task for caribou hunt

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**—Hollywood screenwriter Aaron Sorkin is calling former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin a "witless bully" after her cable television travelogue series featured her shooting a caribou.

In Sunday's episode of "Sarah Palin's Alaska," the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate hunted north of the Arctic Circle. In a Facebook posting, she wrote that unless people have never eaten meat, they shouldn't condemn the episode.

Sorkin, who wrote the script for "The Social Network," said in an article for The Huffington Post

Last month, Franklin announced she was canceling all concert dates and personal appearances through May on the orders of her doctors.

It's been a tough few months for Franklin, whose hits include "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," "Chain of Fools" and her signature song, "Respect."

that Palin didn't kill the caribou for food, just for fun.

He said he couldn't distinguish between that and Philadelphia Eagles' quarterback Michael Vick's role in a dogfighting ring, for which he spent 18 months in prison.

"So a leftwing Hollywood producer thinks there is no 'distinction' between harvesting healthy, wild organic protein to feed my family and engaging in dog fighting?" Palin said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "I didn't know anyone ate dogs, tanned the hides, and made boots out of them."



Sorkin

### Composer Hans Zimmer gets star on Walk of Fame

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Oscar-winning composer Hans Zimmer was honored Wednesday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and he used the unveiling to remember his publicist, Ronni Chasen, who was slain in November.

Zimmer told the crowd, which included "Inception" director Christopher Nolan, that he had known Chasen since he worked on the music for the 1989 movie "Driving Miss Daisy."

"She approached me about a star and I was against it until she convinced me that I deserved it and that my mother, who passed away a year ago, would have loved it," he said. "I

wish to dedicate my star to my mother and to my great friend Ronni."

Chasen, 64, was fatally shot early Nov. 16 as she drove through Beverly Hills after attending the premiere of the movie "Burlesque" and a party.

Zimmer's many credits include "The Lion King," "Batman Begins," "Inception" and "How Do You Know," a romantic comedy being released this month.

Zimmer also thanked his family for putting up with his work.

"I know it is no picnic," he said.

He also saluted his Hollywood collaborators.

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### Wesley Snipes again asks for a new tax trial

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—Actor Wesley Snipes made a last-minute request for a new trial a day before he is scheduled to report to prison for failing to pay taxes. Snipes' attorney Daniel Meachum has said he received an e-mail from a juror who claims three others on the panel had formed an opinion about Snipes' guilt before the trial. In the emergency motion filed Wednesday in federal court in Ocala, Snipes says the judge erred by not allowing defense attorneys to interview jurors about misconduct allegations. He's asking a judge to reconsider his decision not to grant the actor a new trial. Snipes is required to report Thursday to a federal prison in Pennsylvania. The 48-year-old star of the "Blade" trilogy was convicted in 2008 on three misdemeanor counts

of willful failure to file income tax returns.

#### NC-17 rating overturned on 'Blue Valentine'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Michelle Williams and Ryan Gosling's marital drama "Blue Valentine" on Wednesday won a rare appeal of its adults-only NC-17 rating and will go into theaters with an R rating instead. Motion Picture Association of American spokeswoman Elizabeth Kaltman said the rating was lowered after the group's appeals board viewed the film and heard arguments from Harvey Weinstein, whose Weinstein Co. is releasing it. The drama initially drew the NC-17 rating for a "scene of explicit sexual content." The film now carries an R rating for "strong graphic sexual content, language, and a beating." An NC-17 rating would have prohibited those under

17 from attending. With an R rating, those younger than 17 can see the film if they're accompanied by an adult.

#### Actor James Franco guesting on 'General Hospital'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Actor James Franco is making a conveniently timed return visit to "General Hospital." ABC said Wednesday that Franco will appear on the soap opera Feb. 25 and Feb. 28. Franco is co-hosting the Academy Awards ceremony on ABC with actress Anne Hathaway on Feb. 27. The actor appears occasionally in the soap opera as an oddball artist named Franco. He made his first appearance in that "General Hospital" role in 2009, and returned for an episode June 30 this year. He appeared in the movie "Eat Pray Love" this summer and is starring in the thriller "127 Hours."



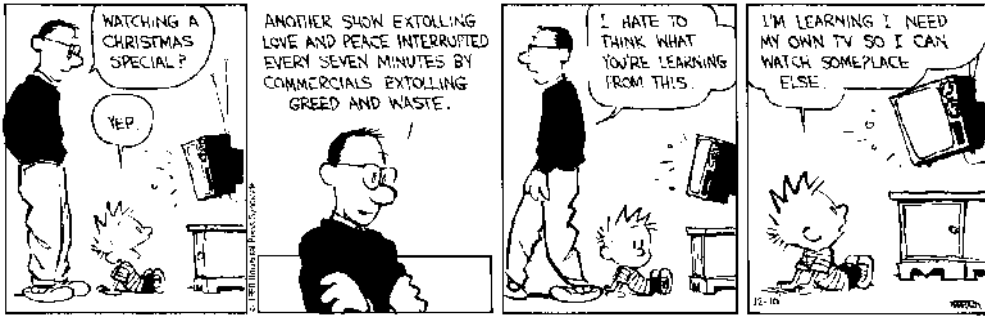
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

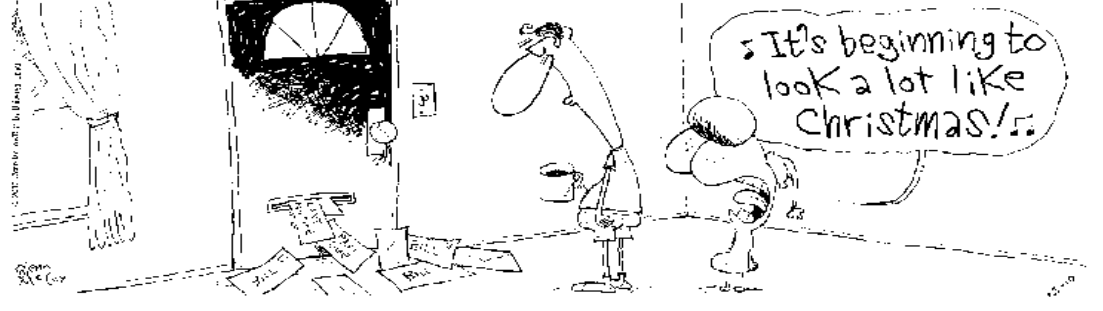
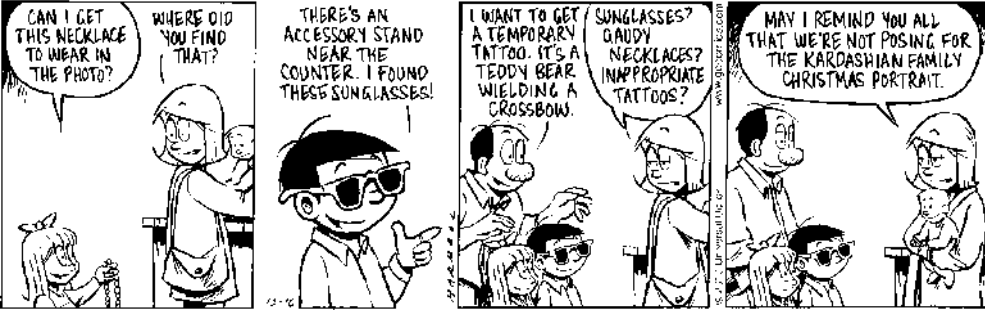


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Source of PIN money? **41** Porthos' pal **5** Easy mark **26** Persian bigwig

4 Colorful fish **48** Portable cooker **6** Consumed money **27** Mexican money

8 Watercraft **50** Servitude symbol **8** Harass wire **28** En-grossed

12 Weep **51** Busy with **9** Scrap **32** Put on a pedestal

13 Assess **52** Performance **10** Past **33** Olympics award

14 Therefore **53** Paradise **11** Upper limit **35** Resume

15 Trouble **54** Hammer part **16** Used a paper towel **36** Sport fish

17 Halt **55** "Quiet!" **20** Explanation **38** Colorado ski

18 Moral principles **21** Thick-ness **2** Run **24** Elevator name **39** Star-bucks order

19 That girl **3** Legend **4** Authoritative decider **25** Ready for anything **42** "Serpico" author Peter

**DOWN**

1 Rue the run **23** College VIP **43** Desire

22 Frank **3** Legend **4** Authoritative decider **25** Ready for anything **42** "Serpico" author Peter

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterdays answer 12-10**

## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Raven-Symone, 25; Emmanuelle Chriqui, 33; Kenneth Branagh, 50; Michael Clarke Duncan, 53

**Happy Birthday:** There is money to be made if you are innovative and let your imagination run wild. Readdress some ideas from the past and see if now is a better time to pursue that goal. With your insight and knowledge, you should be able to come up with something of interest to the majority of consumers. Start small and watch your dreams grow. Your numbers are 2, 14, 17, 21, 24, 36, 47

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take serious action against anyone trying to bully or coerce you into doing something you don't want to be a part of. Avoid arguments that will lead to a no-win situation. Don't burden yourself with other people's problems. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** A short trip or researching what you need to know to make the best decision regarding a move will pay off financially in the savings you make. Your stability and responsible nature will put you in a position to advance. \*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Join forces with someone you trust to come up with a viable financial solution that will help you both. Trial and error may be tedious but, in the end, you will have more to show for your efforts. Take care of personal paperwork and money matters. \*\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Put your heart on the line and let your true feelings be known. You can change the dynam-

ics of a relationship with honest communication. Cutting your overhead is a must. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Your generosity will get the better of you if you shop for someone you love. A gift from the heart will mean more to the right person. Anyone expecting you to go into debt is probably not someone you should keep in your life. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You can get a lot of the last-minute jobs out of the way if you are organized. Plan an evening for family, friends or your lover and you will be happy you did. Welcome any challenge you face. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Organization will be required and staying out of the line of fire will be a must. Expect someone to be on the rampage and ready to put blame on anyone who gets in the way. Keep things simple. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Don't let someone rain on your parade. If there is something you want to do, follow through. Question any relationship you are in that is weighing you down or holding you back. \*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Keep things peaceful and accept any changes that you don't have any control over. As long as you go with the flow, you will come out unscathed and ready for action. Your will power and determination will help you sit tight until the time is right. \*\*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You can make a move, do your thing and re-

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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address old ideas. People and places from your past will stimulate and inspire new ways of approaching old goals. A change may be exactly what you need. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Get your thoughts in order and your finances will follow. You will be able to connect with people who have something to offer you that will lead to greater prosperity. A new partnership looks quite promising. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Too much information is being kept from you to allow for a valid decision. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. Let everyone around you go first and you will have a much better idea of the best position possible. \*\*\*

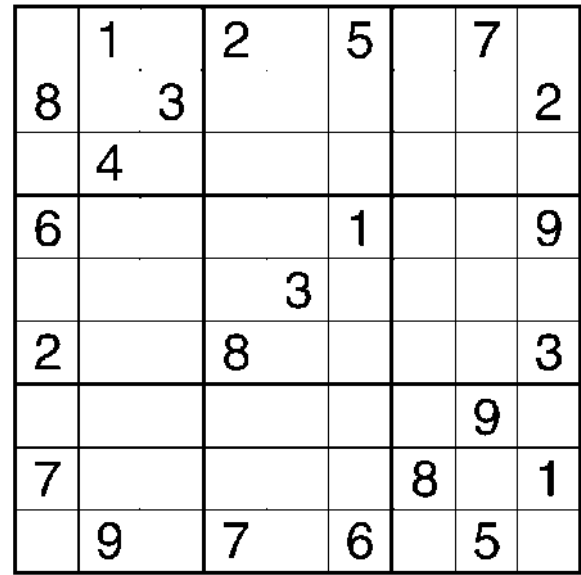
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## SUDOKU

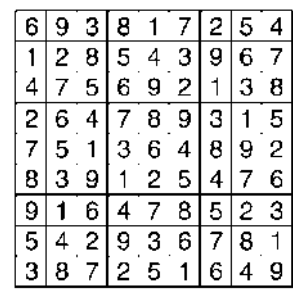
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/10

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in this puzzle. Look for them horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WOODEN BRIDGES Solution: 7 letters



Arch, Balsa, Beam, Build, Cedar, Creek, Curved, Double, Dun Crossover, Durable, Elegance, Fade, Footbridge, Garden, Gale, Medium, Observatory, Outdoor, Path, Pedestrian, Pine, Poc, Rail, Ravine, Redwood, Relax, Safety, Sealed, Security, Short, Size, Solid, Spindle, Stain, Strength, Structural, Sturdy, Styles, Suspension, Te, Timber, Too, Uses, Wide, Yarc  
Yesterday's Answer: Icicle

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Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,** } Civil  
vs. } Action No.  
 } 08-0292-CV

**LOUIS ANTHONY S. MANIBUSAN and JULIE ANN DUENAS, fka, JULIE ANN D. MANIBUSAN, Petitioners.**

**AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION FOR AN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AND CONTEMPT OF COURT**

Date: December 23, 2010  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Judge: David A. Wiseman

TO: LOUIS ANTHONY S. MANIBUSAN

Please take notice that Plaintiff, Bank of Guam, has filed a Motion for an Order to Show Cause Re: Contempt/Declaration. This Motion for an Order to Show Cause, is based on Defendant's failure to make payments so that he should be held in contempt. The Court will hold a hearing on the motion on **December 23, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.** You may file any responsive pleading as you deem appropriate and provide copies thereof to Counsel for Plaintiff, Robert T. Torres, at the above address.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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# Karl stuck on 999 wins; Celtics defeat Nuggets

**BOSTON (AP)**—Ray Allen scored 28 points Wednesday as the Boston Celtics took advantage of an injury to Carmelo Anthony and won their eighth straight game, beating the Denver Nuggets 105-89.

The loss left Nuggets coach George Karl stuck on 999 wins. His next chance to reach 1,000 comes Friday at Toronto.

Kevin Garnett had 17 points and nine rebounds, and Rajon Rondo added 13 assists for Boston. Paul Pierce scored 17 and Glen “Big Baby” Davis, who had been ill during the week, had 16 points.

## Heat 111, Jazz 98

At Salt Lake City, LeBron James scored 33 points and Dwyane Wade added 28 as the surging Miami outscored Utah by 14 in the fourth quarter.

The victory extended Miami’s winning streak to six, and avenged a 116-114 overtime loss to Utah at home on Nov. 9. The Heat improved to 15-8, while Utah fell to 16-7.

Al Jefferson scored 25 points for Utah, while Paul Millsap had 18 and Deron Williams had 21.

## Lakers 87, Clippers 86

At Los Angeles, Derek Fisher hit a layup at the buzzer to give the Los Angeles Lakers a victory over the Clippers after the two-time defending NBA champions trailed for most of the second half.

Kobe Bryant scored 24 points, Shannon Brown added 16 and Pau Gasol had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who ended a three-game road losing streak as the visiting team in their own building.

Eric Gordon scored 24 points and Blake Griffin had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers, who blew a 12-point lead in the third quarter.

## Knicks 113, Raptors 110

At New York, Raymond Felton’s tiebreaking 3-pointer bounced on the rim five times and finally went in with 2.7 seconds left, giving New York a victory over Toronto that extended its winning streak to six.

Amare Stoudemire pushed his 30-point streak to six games in sensational fashion, scoring 18 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter and grabbing 14 rebounds. His jumper gave New York a 110-107 lead with 57 seconds remaining and sparked “MVP!” chants at Madison Square Garden.

Andrea Bargnani had a career-high 41 points but wasn’t close on a desperation 3 pointer just before the buzzer in the Raptors’ third straight loss.

## Bulls 88, Cavaliers 83

At Cleveland, Derrick Rose scored 29 points, including a three-point play that put Chicago



Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen, left, drives to the basket against Denver Nuggets guard Chauncey Billups during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010.

ahead for good with 19.6 seconds to play, as the Bulls handed Cleveland its sixth straight loss.

The losing streak matches Cleveland’s longest since it dropped six in a row from Nov. 28 to Dec. 8, 2007.

## Bucks 97, Pacers 95

At Milwaukee, Andrew Bogut tipped in an inbounds pass from Luc Richard Mbah a Moute as time expired, lifting Milwaukee over Indiana.

With 0.5 seconds left, Mbah a Moute made a perfect pass that just missed the rim, but allowed Bogut to deflect it in for the winning points.

Bogut finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Brandon Jennings had 22 points for the Bucks and Ersan Ilyasova added a season-high 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

## Thunder 111, Timberwolves 103

At Minneapolis, Kevin Durant scored 30 points, including 20 in the second half, and grabbed 11 rebounds as Oklahoma City came from 19 points down to beat Minnesota.

Russell Westbrook added 25 points and eight assists. Thabo Sefolosha had 13 points for Oklahoma City.

Kevin Love posted his eighth straight double-double with 22 points and 21 rebounds for Minnesota.

## Hornets 93, Pistons 74

At New Orleans, David West scored 25 points and Chris Paul had 14 assists as New Orleans beat Detroit to win its first game since the NBA announced its impending takeover of the club.

West had 23 in the first three quarters as the Hornets built a commanding lead that was never threatened in the final period by Detroit, which has lost six

of its last seven and dropped to 2-11 on the road.

Marco Belinelli made four 3-pointers and finished with a season-high 22 points, while Emeka Okafor added 14 points.

Ben Gordon led Detroit with 16 points in a reserve role, while Rodney Stuckey scored 16 and Richard Hamilton 13.

## Spurs 111, Warriors 94

At San Antonio, Tony Parker had 19 points and nine assists as San Antonio beat Golden State to set a franchise record for the best start to a season.

DeJuan Blair added 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Spurs (18-3), who have won their last 25 games against the Warriors. It was Blair’s third double-double of the season.

Reggie Williams made eight 3-pointers and finished with 31 points for Golden State, which has dropped five straight and 10 of 11. Monta Ellis added 19 points.

## Grizzlies 104, Suns 98, OT

At Phoenix, Zach Randolph scored a season-high 34 points and Rudy Gay had 22 as Memphis rallied to beat Phoenix in overtime.

Mike Conley had 11 points and a career-high 14 assists for the Grizzlies, who earned their first road win since Nov. 6 at Sacramento. They had dropped their previous six games away from home.

## Kings 116, Wizards 91

At Sacramento, California, Beno Udrih scored 23 points, and Jason Thompson had 22 points and 14 rebounds as Sacramento snapped an eight-game losing streak by beating Washington.

Wizards guard John Wall sat out with a sore foot. He was announced as a starter by the public address announcer but never left the bench.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR TENNIS CLASSIC WINNERS and PARTICIPANTS!!!

Thank you to all our volunteers, event coordinators, parents, fans, coaches, supporters and friends.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Lydia Tan  
Judy Mendieta  
Ed Arriola, Jr.

Kirk and Carrie Schuler  
Ken Imay  
Edmund Robles

Christine Kwah  
Coach Peter Loyola  
Coach Jeff Race

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Joe and Jean Cepeda, Landon and Michelle Nadler,  
David Lai, George Lai, Samuel Lai, Peter Lai and Benson Au-Yeung.

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## THANK YOU!

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Mix Open D	Vivian Lee & Peter Loken	Jeff Race & Jodel Fernandez	
B10d	Michael Ren & Steven Goodwin	Clayton Izuka & Alex Park	
B10s	Michael Ren	Luther Lizama	James Hourican
B12d	Pedro John & Derek Okuhama	Luther Lizama & Morris Villanueva	
B12s	Derek Okuhama	Carl Dela Cruz	Pedro John
B15d	Josh Cepeda & Christian Penafiel	Jake Lee & Daniel Park	
B15s	Christian Miller	Christian Penafiel	Chris Park
B18d	Rafael Jones & Ji Kent Kwah	Johnny Kang & Alex Ornbo	
B18s	Ji Kent Kwah	Rafael Jones	Clay McCullough-Stearns
G10d	Maiika Miyawaki & Mimi Sakano	Liza Atalig & Julia Ishikawa	
G10s	Tiffany Madlambayan	Tania Tan	Anna Calvert
G12d	Adele Hudkins & Emily Jones	Isabel Heras & Tiffany Madlambayan	
G12s	Carol Lee	Adele Hudkins	Emily Jones (3rd)
G15d	Melody Johnson & Negahr Rastguiv	Alina Ishikawa & Mikayla Lopez	
G15s	Mikayla Lopez	Melody Johnson	Ashley Nadler
G18s	Thea Minor	Theecel Minor	Jodel Fernandez (3rd)

	First Place	Second Place	Consolation
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Co-Ed 10d	Ken Song & Vincent Tudela	Sally Hwang & James Kim	
Co-Ed Os	Kent Kwah	Peter Loyola	Dong Min Lee
M Od	Peter Loyola & Kirk Schuler	Jeff Race & Kent Kwah	
M 4.0s	Anthony Wenceslao	David Lai	George Lai
M 4.0d	Richard Ascuncion & Dong Lacbayo	Sam Lai & David Lai	
M 3.0s	Carl Dela Cruz	Dylan Ackerman	Alex Park
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# Florida football coach Meyer resigns

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—With his wife and two of his three children sitting a few feet away, Urban Meyer didn't have to look very far to be reminded why he's leaving one of the premier jobs in college football.

It's all about family.

Meyer resigned from Florida on Wednesday, stepping down for the second time in less than a year. His first attempt, which lasted just a day, was for health reasons. This time it's to be a better husband and father.

"At the end of the day, I'm very convinced that you're going to be judged on how you are as a husband and as a father and not on how many bowl games we won," Meyer said at a campus news conference.

"I've not seen my two girls play high school sports. They're both very talented Division I-A volleyball players, so I missed those four years. I missed two already with one away at college. I can't get that time back."

The 46-year-old coach led Florida to two national titles but briefly resigned last December, citing health concerns. He had been hospitalized with chest pains after the Gators lost to Alabama in last season's Southeastern Conference championship game.

"Last year was a knee-jerk reaction," Meyer said. "This year was just completely different."

Meyer called Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley on Saturday to tell him he was contemplating retirement. They met Tuesday to finalize his intentions.

Meyer signed a six-year, \$24 million extension in 2009, meaning he's walking away from about \$20 million in guaranteed salary. But Foley did agree to pay Meyer a \$1 million retention bonus the coach would have received had he been employed on Jan. 31, 2011.

This time, Foley doesn't anticipate another change of heart.

"He's worked his tail off," Foley said. "You think of what he's rebuilt. He built one at Bowling Green, he built one at Utah, he built one here. It's not just sacrifices here the last six years. That's 10 years of their lives. Not to mention what he did before that as an assistant coach. It's his time to step back and spend time with his family. You're not getting it back. I admire him for that."

Foley said the coaching search will begin immediately and hopes to have a new coach before Christmas. Although Foley declined to offer names, Utah's Kyle Whittingham, Mississippi State's Dan Mullen and Arkansas' Bobby Petrino are likely on the list.

Meyer said he planned to be involved in the search, which could make Whittingham and Mullen front-runners. Whit-



Florida head football coach Urban Meyer announces his resignation during a news conference in Gainesville, Fla., Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010.

tingham was Meyer's defensive coordinator in Utah, and Mullen served as the offensive coordinator at Florida. Petrino was Foley's second choice behind Meyer in 2004.

"I don't see why it should take that long," Foley said, adding that he has not contacted anyone.

Meyer's announcement caught players, fans and the rest of college football by surprise.

He called assistant coaches, many of whom were on the

road recruiting, earlier this week to relay the news. Quarterbacks coach Scot Loeffler told the AP he was "stunned" and that no one saw this coming.

"We'll be fine," said Loeffler, adding that Meyer was planning to meet with his staff Wednesday night. "It happens in this profession. We're just happy for him. He's doing it the right way."

AOL FanHouse first reported the resignation, and fellow coaches were quick to praise his

efforts at Florida.

"The world of college football will miss Urban," said former USC coach Pete Carroll, who left his job for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks. "He did a great job coaching at Florida. He had major personal issues and health issues a year ago, and I'm sure that he did everything he could to fight it off. Now he's making decisions that are probably exactly what he needs to be doing."

Added former Florida coach

and current South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier: "I believe he will coach again some day, but if he doesn't, he will go down as one of the best coaches in college football history."

Meyer left open the possibility of returning to the sideline, but said it was not going to happen in the "immediacy."

He plans to catch his daughters' volleyball matches—his oldest is a sophomore at Georgia Tech and the other will attend Florida Gulf Coast next fall—and catch more of his son's athletic events.

"There's not a perfect time, however, this is probably about as good a time you can have," Meyer said.

Former Florida quarterback Tim Tebow applauded Meyer's decision.

"I respect that Coach Meyer had the courage to make the decision that was right for himself and his family," the Denver Broncos quarterback said in a statement. "He will be blessed and better off for it. I am truly glad that he's happy and no matter what, we both will be Gators for the rest of our lives."

The decision to walk away was even tougher because of Florida's struggles this season. The Gators were near the bottom the SEC in every offensive category, got blown out in games against Alabama, South Carolina and Florida State, and finished 7-5.

It was the most losses in Meyer's 10-year coaching career.

Several freshmen transferred, others threatened to leave and there seemed to be a huge divide between the team's underachieving seniors and Meyer's

highly touted newcomers. Players refused to point fingers all season, but there were outcries for personnel and assistant coaching changes. There also was another arrest, the 30th involving 27 players during Meyer's tenure.

"I just think Florida deserves the best, and I'm not sure we gave them my best this year," he said.

Meyer seemingly didn't give his family his best, either.

"He's always been the No. 1 advocate for preaching about family and making sure you take care of your family and everything," punter Chas Henry said at the College Football Awards show in Orlando. "He's one man I have unbelievable respect for about making sure you take care of your family. I understand this is a family decision. I have complete understanding, complete respect for it. You've got to take care of yourself and your family, and that's what he's doing. He's always going to be a legend and loved at the University of Florida."

Meyer was hired away from Utah by Florida after he led the Utes to an undefeated season. In his second season in Gainesville, he led the Gators' to a national championship. Two seasons later he won another, the third time overall the school topped the final AP Top 25.

A bid for another national championship fell short in 2009, and the day after Christmas, Meyer surprisingly announced that he was giving up the job. Less than 24 hours later, he changed his mind and decided to instead take a leave of absence.

Meyer scaled back in January—he didn't go on the road recruiting—but still worked steadily through national signing day. He returned for spring practice in March, but managed to take significant time off before and after.

But this season he had to replace Tim Tebow, several other stars who moved on to the NFL and four assistant coaches, and the Gators struggled mightily.

Florida lost five regular-season for the first time since 1988. The season ended with an embarrassing 31-7 victory to Florida State, Meyer's first loss to the rival Seminoles.

After that game, Meyer vowed to fix the Gators' problems.

Now, he'll help find the person to do it.

"It has to be fixed," he said. "It's broke a little bit right now. But the way you fix it is hard work. When I say broke it's broke because of a constant attrition of coaches who, God bless them, have gone on to be great head coaches. ... You lose five juniors to the NFL draft and you have a little bit of a void in there right now. But it's Florida. We'll be back strong, stronger than ever."

## Red Sox reach deal with Crawford for \$142M, 7 years



**L A K E  
B U E N A  
VISTA, Fla.**

(AP)—The Boston Red Sox struck again at the winter meetings, reaching agreement with star outfielder Carl Crawford on a \$142 million, seven-year contract Wednesday night.

A person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press the agreement was subject to Crawford passing a physical. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet finalized.

Crawford's free-agent deal was first reported by *The Boston Globe* on its website.

The Red Sox got Crawford two days after announcing they had acquired slugging first baseman Adrian Gonzalez in a trade with San Diego.

Boston's big deals follow a season in which it failed to make the playoffs. The Red Sox moves will certainly increase pressure on their perennial rivals, the Yankees, to make a splash—that could mean Cliff Lee.

"It's not going to change the way we allocate our money," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said, shortly after midnight.

Yet Crawford's deal had to sting him. On Tuesday night, Cashman had dinner with the longtime Tampa Bay star. The Los Angeles Angels also pursued Crawford.

Earlier Wednesday, New York made its first offer to Lee, a six-year proposal worth nearly \$140 million. It was easy to tell how eager the Yankees are to sign the prize pitcher.

"Hannibal Lecter in a strait-jacket right now, waiting on this Cliff Lee thing," Cashman said.

The speedy Crawford is a four-time All-Star and just won his first Gold Glove. He hit .307 with 19 home runs, an AL-leading 13 triples and 90 RBIs for Tampa Bay last season. He scored 110 runs and stole 47 bases.

A dynamic player at 29, he has spent his entire major league career with the Rays. He is the franchise leader in sev-

eral categories, including hits, RBIs, runs and steals.

Much earlier in the day, both Chicago teams filled their needs at first base—Carlos Pena joined the Cubs, Paul Konerko returned to the White Sox.

Outfielders Jeff Francoeur and Matt Diaz found new teams while designated hitter Jack Cust and former All-Star reliever George Sherrill appeared to be on their way.

Hard to tell about Tampa Bay shortstop Jason Bartlett, however. After a trade with Baltimore fell through, the Rays worked on a swap that would send him to San Diego.

The last full day of this week's session was active, with many teams in the mix. Still in play are big-name free agents Adrian Beltre, Magglio Ordonez and Manny Ramirez, along with Lee.

"The winter meetings have usually been a lot about first meetings, and we're into second and third meetings," top agent Scott Boras said. "I've gotten two deals done here.

I'm trying to think back to when that's happened. It's been a while."

Boras put Pena and the Cubs together for what he called a "pillow contract"—\$10 million for one year.

"There's a lot of comforts," Boras said.

The 32-year-old Pena hit a career-low .196 this season with 28 home runs and 84 RBIs for Tampa Bay.

"I'm extremely confident. I don't tend to look back on my failures and dwell upon them," he said.

The Cubs, who traded star first baseman Derrek Lee to Atlanta last August, didn't seem daunted by Pena's drop-off.

"It's not a gamble. It's a real good fit," GM Jim Hendry asserted. "We have filled all of the essentials that we were looking for with Carlos."

Konerko got a \$37.5 million, three-year deal to stay with the White Sox. The 34-year-old team captain hit .312 with 39 home runs and 111 RBIs last season.



# NFL concussion committee hears from helmet makers



**NEW YORK (AP)** — Commissioner Roger Goodell was planning to briefly stop by the hotel where the NFL's head, neck and spine medical committee met Wednesday to hear from equipment makers, researchers, the military and NASCAR about how to improve helmet safety and cut down on concussions.

Goodell wound up listening in for a few hours.

"There was a general view that the helmets have improved, but we all have to work harder to find how we're going to take it to the next evolution of those helmets—gathering all the data, gathering all the technology that's being developed," Goodell said. "There are some very positive developments, but there are different approaches, and that was clear."

He also spoke about the link between player safety and the league's push for an 18-game regular season during labor negotiations with the union, referring to possible changes to off-season workouts, training camp and even in-season practices, as well as the recent "focus on rules and taking those techniques we think are dangerous out of the game."

Indeed, as much as there might have been differing opinions presented Wednesday

about the best ways to pursue new helmets, one point of agreement among concussion experts was that styles of play need to be changed.

"All the scientists said that if we can eliminate a lot of the helmet-to-helmet hits ... we can certainly lessen the risks of the severe injuries," said Richard Ellenbogen, chairman of the University of Washington medical school's department of neurological surgery and co-chair of the NFL head, neck and spine committee.

A member of the committee, University of North Carolina professor Kevin Guskiewicz, is optimistic that helmet design and materials will improve.

"But we stand a much better chance of minimizing concussion and eventually preventing concussion by behavior modification. We need to be focused on teaching young players, as well as collegiate and professional players, how to tackle appropriately, not leading with the head," Guskiewicz said. "Changing the culture at the professional level will be a challenge, but I think the NFL has done a good job over the past several months here to begin that process."

Goodell noted that some "team doctors mentioned to me that players in the past would have gone back in had it not been for our return-to-play

guidelines" installed a year ago. Among the topics discussed at Wednesday's meeting:

- should there be changes to the way helmets are tested in laboratories;

- when might sensors in helmets, mouthguards and/or earpieces be used for on-field testing among NFL players;

- should helmets be made for particular positions, so that a quarterback, for example, would wear equipment that is different from what a lineman wears;

- should different safety standards be applied for helmets used in youth football and the NFL.

Representatives of helmet makers were given about 15 minutes apiece to speak to the committee, touting their own advances in technology, offering insights into what might be coming in the future and offering suggestions for how the league could move forward on testing equipment.

In addition to the makers of helmets currently used in the league, the committee heard from Bert Straus, president of Protective Sports Equipment and developer of a soft-shell helmet with a flexible face-mask that he said absorbs more energy on impact. The aim is to have that new helmet on the market next year and, eventually, in the NFL.

While players can wear any

helmet that passes a safety standard, the league and Riddell—

whose website notes it's the "Official Helmet of the NFL"—

have had a licensing/sponsorship arrangement since 1990.

## Jets' Sanchez, Dolphins' Henne to square off again

**FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)**—Chad Henne has been competing against Mark Sanchez every week for a few months now.

Not so much personally on the field, but through fans on sports radio and the media in newspaper columns and internet blogs comparing the two. Who has the true franchise quarterback, the Miami Dolphins or the New York Jets?

Or, both?

"They're both good young quarterbacks," Dolphins coach Tony Sparano said Wednesday. "Both their futures are going to be really good in this league."

Henne and Sanchez are coming off lousy games, and need wins when the Dolphins (6-6) come to New York to take on the Jets (9-3).

"Winning this one for us," Sanchez said, "might settle some things."

The comparisons are clear: Both are in their second seasons as starters, have strong arms and the fates of their respective teams riding on their shoulders.

But, that's where the differences begin.

While both are struggling lately, Sanchez is in no danger

of being benched by the Jets, a team loaded with talent. Meanwhile, Henne has already seen the sideline and leads a Dolphins team ranked last in the AFC in scoring.

"The biggest thing as a young quarterback," Henne said, "is embracing and really trying to critique yourself and don't shy away from what you have been doing your whole life and that's throwing the football and being aggressive at the same time."

Sanchez was admittedly overaggressive Monday night as the Jets fell behind the New England Patriots in a 45-3 rout. He has thrown one touchdown and four interceptions in his last two games.

"I can't say a guy is struggling at 9-3," Dolphins cornerback Benny Sapp said. "That doesn't seem like struggling to me."

But, Sanchez has been off target for a few weeks now, even in wins. Since opening the season with five straight games without an interception, he has been picked off 11 times since.

"These turnovers need to be cut down," Sanchez said. "There's no two ways about it."

Against New England, Sanchez was 17 of 33 for 164 yards with three interceptions and a minuscule 27.8 quarterback rating.

"He's a guy that traditionally has responded well," coach Rex Ryan said. "I hope that's what happens this week."

In order to get off to a faster start, Ryan said he would let the offense get the ball first if the Jets win the coin toss; he has always deferred in the past.

Meanwhile, Henne is coming off a career-low rating of 37.8 Sunday in a 13-10 loss to Cleveland, in which he tied a career high with three interceptions. The last time he was picked off three times, he was benched. After Chad Pennington was injured in the next game, Henne was back in the lineup but hurt his knee later in that game, sat out the next week and has started the past two games.

"My personality and how I am, I can forget things pretty quickly," Henne said. "Obviously, it hurts and you don't want to go out that way in a game. Understanding your mistakes is the biggest thing and trying to correct them."

# Christmas

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# NMIVA Prince and Princess of the Beach tomorrow

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will be holding the U18 Prince and Princess of the Beach Volleyball Tournament tomorrow at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

Interested participants can register courtside at 8:30am, as games start at 9am. Registration is free and waiver forms can be downloaded at [www.nmivolleyball.org](http://www.nmivolleyball.org) after clicking the Prince & Princess of the Beach



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Christian Miller returns the ball during a game in the 2010 Kids Marianas Cup played in March this year at the Pacific Islands Club sand court. Youth beach volleyball action returns this weekend with NMIVA holding the U18 Prince and Princess of the Beach Volleyball Tournament tomorrow at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

link. Participants can print out the forms and fill them out before reporting for the Saturday morning games.

The tournament is a two-person beach volleyball with a twist, as players will team up with other members of the participating teams. Each player will then accumulate points based on the results of each matches.

The Top 8 scorers will advance to the semifinals. From there, the Top 4 scorers will move on to the finals and the top scorers of the finals will be crowned NMIVA's Prince and Princess of the Beach.

Only the first 32 players to register will be allowed to compete in two 16-player pools. Boys and girls will compete in separate divisions.

Games are played to 15 points with a cap of 21, and rally scoring will be in effect. After each game, the winning players both record a 15 (or 21) as their total for that match. What ever score the losing team's players end up with will also be tallied, accordingly. Then players change partners until the entirety of the divisional rotation is completed.

Depending on the number of players entered, coordinators reserve the right to adjust the game scoring to finish all of the games on four courts.

## Volunteers needed

Meanwhile, NMIFA is looking for volunteers who will help the association coordinate youth volleyball events. Parent-volunteers are welcome.

For more information, contact Mili Saiki at [milisaiki@hotmail.com](mailto:milisaiki@hotmail.com) or J.R. Gechig at [jrup\\_18@yahoo.com](mailto:jrup_18@yahoo.com).

## RGA Family Fun Day, Club Championship set



The Refaluwasch Golf Association will have a busy schedule for two weekends with the staging of the 2010 Annual Family Fun Day and the RGA Club Championship.

The Family Fun Day is scheduled for tomorrow, while the club championship will be played on Dec. 18 and 19.

Events in the Family Fun Day include a tournament at Coral Ocean Point and a luncheon for

players and their family members at the Trunkun Daok Park. Tee-off time for the tournament is at 8am.

The first round of the club championship will be played on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in the afternoon, while the second and final round will take place on the west course with a 9am tee-off time.

At stake in the club championship is the Plasio M. Tagabuel

Club Ace of Aces championship trophy, which will be contested by the 12 monthly Ace winners. The list include Jun "Young Gun" Yi Paio (January Ace), Joe "The Enforcer" Saures (February), Nick "Nasty" Leon Guerrero (March), Carl "Under Dog" Hocog (April), Xian Lai "Champion" Cue (May), Jesse "Blaster" Seman (June), Jess "Unorthodox" Wabol (August), Ray Tigilau (September), Tony Satur (October), Bae Yong Man

(November), Jordon Kosam (December), and 2009 club champion Tars Olopai.

RGA will also give out the Sid K. Peter and Tony Taitano awards, which will go to the member with the low net score and most rounds played, respectively.

For more information about RGA events, contact Joe Saures at 483-5506 or Jordon Kosam at [jkosam0007@gmail.com](mailto:jkosam0007@gmail.com). (Walter Sutherland)

## KOREAN

From Page 36

in the featherweight division (145lbs) and also used his stay on Saipan to prepare for a bout in January. He holds a record of 10 wins and 3 losses and had competed in prominent MMA events in Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong. Jung was last seen in the World Extreme Combat 51 in Broomfield, Colorado. WEC is a subdivision of the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

The 23-year-old Jung started kickboxing at 17 to learn how to defend himself and stay in

shape. He decided to learn wrestling and kickboxing skills after getting into a fight with an old friend. Jung uses speed and mental strength to make up for his smaller stature. According to Jung, he prefers to stand and bang, but with six wins by submission, the "Korean Zombie" knows how to battle it out on the mat as well.

Late in April this year, Jung boasted an MMA card of eight wins and only one loss before absorbing two defeats in a row. He vowed to end the slide and came to Saipan to train as per the recommendation of one of his coaches.

"Originally, I planned on training in Japan, but I was persuaded to come to Saipan by my coaches and one of my teammates, who has some family here. Our team has built a good relationship with the CNMI MMA community. This experience is good for me because I feel like I can clear my head and bounce back after those two losses," Jung said.

Jung's next bout will be at the UFC Ultimate Fight Night: Fight For The Troops on January 22 at Fort Hood in Killen, Texas.

Jung added that he likes the Trench Tech Gym because it

is bigger and there are a lot of fighters for him to practice with. He also complimented Saipan's exotic ambiance and the gracious hospitality he received during his stay.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech promoter and president Cuki Alvarez welcomed Jung's visit.

"We appreciate that Jung is here and we really do wish him nothing but the best. This situation really works well on both sides because my fighters get a chance to spar against a true top-level professional. This guy is the real deal and it's a great experience for CNMI fighters no matter how you slice it," Alvarez said.

## OL'ACES

From Page 36

the G-Stars recovered from a slow start to edge Rollers A in the second match of the night, 65-57.

The win advanced Ol'Aces to the semifinals where they will face the second-seeded Kagman Sparks tonight at 7pm. The G-Stars will also play in today's semis game, battling pennant champion and top-ranked Sonics at 5:30pm. Winners of tonight's semifinals matches will duel for the U19 championship on Monday.

The Ol'Aces used a balance offense to oust Rollers B with the former getting points from 10 players. Juan Maratita paced the Ol'Aces with 19 markers and eight of its nine other scorers tallied at least two baskets apiece.

Rollers B did not have enough bench players to match up against the Ol'Aces and it did not help the former that gunner Joe Ada missed the first 15

minutes of the game. When Ada reported to the match late in the second period, he was out of rhythm and scored only a field goal and four free throws in the playoff game.

Without Ada, Rollers B leaned on Ham Hambrose in the first quarter. Hambrose traded baskets with the Ol'Aces' Maratita in the opening period with the latter having the slight edge to give his team a 17-15 cushion.

In the second half, Maratita found an ally in Ton Webb and together they scored 14 points, matching the entire Rollers crew's output for the Ol'Aces' 37-29 advantage.

The Ol'Aces pulled away further in the third period with Trevor Ogumoro pouring all his eight markers in that canto and his five other teammates lighting up the scoreboard.

By the end of the third period, the Ol'Aces' lead ballooned to 17, 60-43. Rollers B was held to another 14-point production with only Hambrose and Savali Talalemoto

hitting more than two field goals apiece for the team.

In the fourth period, Rollers B scored 20-plus points for the first time, but these were not enough to overhaul Ol'Aces' lead. The Ol'Aces still outgunned Rollers B in the final canto, 22-21, eliminating the latter in the eight-team field.

It was a bad night for Rollers Basketball Club, as Rollers A also bowed out of competition after an eight-point loss to the G-Stars.

Marvin Rabauliman powered the G-Stars to an important win, drilling 20 markers, including five of the team's last six points. His three free throws in the homestretch helped the G-Stars preserve the win.

Rollers A got off to a good start, defensively, limiting the G-Stars to eight points for a 14-8 lead. The G-Stars had their offense going in the second period, outscoring Rollers A, 19-13, to force a deadlock at the break, 27-all.

The G-Stars then grabbed the

upper hand in the third period, 46-42, behind Rabauliman's nine points. The former Junior National player continued giving headaches to Rollers A's defense in the fourth quarter and the G-Stars went on to escape with the win and a semis seat.

## First Game

**Ol'Aces 82** — Maratita 19, Dillay 8, Webb 9, Lisua 8, Ogumoro 8, Rangamar 6, Taylor 5, Tomokane 4, Ichihara 4, De Leon 2.

**Rollers B 64** — Hambrose 21, Talalemoto 11, Darag 9, Deleon Guerrero 8, Ada 6, Cenir 2, Igitol 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-15, 37-29, 60-43, 82-64.

## Second Game

**G-Stars 65** — Rabauliman 20, Manalili 14, Kenty 13, Bena-vente 9, Concepcion 7, Jung 2.

**Rollers A 57** — Aurelio 18, Norita 10, Torres 10, Metran 6, Palacios 6, Danas 5, Reyes 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 8-14, 27-27, 46-42, 65-57.

## MP

From Page 36

Black played in the last day of the playoffs with the former shutting out Paire Red, 6-0, and the latter downing Tan Holdings, 5-1, last Saturday.

With the loss, Paire Red dropped to a 1-0-3 record and settled for third place in the team standings after the playoff round. Paire Red will battle Tan Holdings, which was winless in three games in the playoffs, in the third place game tomorrow.

The other consolation game—race for fifth to sixth place—will have the bottom 3 top finisher Matansa facing runner-up Independents.

Matansa had a perfect 2-0 record in the playoff round in its own bracket, sweeping its assignment after a 9-1 triumph over newcomer Shirley's Coffee Shop last Saturday. Independents had a 1-0-1 card, as it also

prevailed over Shirley's, 4-1.

The playoff round in the boys U14 division had the seven teams divided into two groups. Pool A is for the Top 4 finishers after the regular season, while three low ranked teams formed Pool B. Each pool had a round-robin format in the playoffs and only the Top 2 finishers in Pool A made it to the finals.

## Matansa vs Paire in girls U14

The girls U14 division has different format with only the Top 2 teams after the three-round robin regular season advancing to the finals.

Matansa secured the first finals berth after an 8-1-0 card, while Paire gained the second finals seat, following its 3-4-2 slate.

The girls U14 title game will be played at 2pm, also at the Hopwood pitch. In the battle for third place at 12:30pm, MP United will take on Tan Holdings.

## USUAL

From Page 36

the sixth overall finisher in the race that started from Garapan Fishing Base to the Kilili Park Beach.

Hopwood Junior High School's Vinnie Inos clocked in at 21:27 to place second, while Whispering Palms' Logan Mister rounded out the Top 3 with his time of 22:59.

Meanwhile, SSC thanked all students and their parents for joining the fun run. The club also acknowledged the support of the following: DFS Saipan,

Mariana Resort & Spa, National Office Supply, Dolphin Wholesale, Team PDI, AON, Century Insurance Pacific Islands Club, Law Office of Joshua Berger, Saipan World Resort, Triple J Motors, Hyatt Regency Saipan, McDonalds, Saipan Ice and Water Co., D&Q, Len Restaurant, IT&E, Saipan Grand Hotel, and Marianas Eye Institute.

"A very big thanks to all our sponsors which provided some wonderful raffle gifts and donations," SSC coach Lisa Kimball said.

Besides the raffle prizes, participants in the fundraising race also received finishers t-shirt.

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NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	17	4	.810	—					
New York	14	9	.609	4					
Toronto	8	14	.364	9 1/2					
Philadelphia	7	14	.333	10					
New Jersey	6	16	.273	11 1/2					
Southeast Division									
Orlando	15	6	.714	—					
Atlanta	15	8	.652	1					
Miami	15	8	.652	1					
Charlotte	8	13	.381	7					
Washington	6	15	.286	9					
Central Division									
Chicago	12	8	.600	—					
Indiana	10	10	.500	2					
Milwaukee	8	13	.381	4 1/2					
Cleveland	7	15	.318	6					
Detroit	7	16	.304	6 1/2					
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Southwest Division									
San Antonio	18	3	.857	—					
Dallas	17	4	.810	1					
New Orleans	14	7	.667	4					
Memphis	9	14	.391	10					
Houston	8	13	.381	10					
Northwest Division									
Utah	16	7	.696	—					
Oklahoma City	15	8	.652	1					
Denver	13	8	.619	2					
Portland	10	11	.476	5					
Minnesota	5	17	.227	10 1/2					
Pacific Division									
L.A. Lakers	16	6	.727	—					
Phoenix	11	11	.500	5					
Golden State	8	14	.364	8					
Sacramento	5	15	.250	10					
L.A. Clippers	5	18	.217	11 1/2					
Yesterday's Games									
Boston 105, Denver 89									
Chicago 88, Cleveland 83									
New York 113, Toronto 110									
Milwaukee 97, Indiana 95									
Oklahoma City 111, Minnesota 103									
New Orleans 93, Detroit 74									
San Antonio 111, Golden State 94									
Memphis 104, Phoenix 98, OT									
Miami 111, Utah 98									
Sacramento 116, Washington 91									
L.A. Lakers 87, L.A. Clippers 86									

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic Winners

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The mixed doubles winners pose with their plaques during the awards ceremony for the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



The boys singles and doubles winners show their plaques and trophies.



Girls U10 champion Tiffany Madlambayan, left, is joined by runner-up Tania Tan and consolation draw winner Anna Calvert during the awards ceremony.



Sportsmanship awardees, from left, Migu Goodman, Dylan Ackerman, and Nanding Cajigan.



Men's 4.0 singles champion Anthony Wenceslao is flanked by runners-up David Lai, left, and George Lai.



The girls singles and doubles winners take the center stage after receiving their awards.



Women's doubles and singles winners are all smiles after getting their awards.



Women's doubles winners, from left, Carrie Schuler, Shimiko Montgomery, Flor and Emily Jones, and women's 3.0 singles champion Vickie Izuka wait for the announcement of other division champions.



Men's singles and doubles winners pose for a group photo.



The boys and girls U10 short course winners get trophies and medals.



**Karl stuck on 999 wins; Celtics defeat Nuggets**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Florida football coach Meyer resigns**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## MP United vs Paire Black in U14 finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

It will be MP United against Paire Black in the title showdown for the boys U14 division of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League.

The championship game will be played tomorrow at 3:30pm at the Hopwood Junior High School field after the two consolation games featuring Matansa Football Club against Independents FC at 11am and Paire Red versus Tan Holdings FC at 12:30pm.

MP United and Paire Black advanced to the one-game finals after topping the round-robin playoffs. MP United ruled the playoff round among the Top 4 teams with an unbeaten 3-0 record to grab the first finals berth. Paire Black finished the playoffs with a 2-0-1 win-draw-loss slate to claim the second finals seat.

Paire Black absorbed its lone loss in the playoffs against MP United, 2-5, during the first week of the playoffs on Nov. 13. Both MP United and Paire

See MP on Page 34



Kennedy Izuka plays for MP United, which will duel Paire Black for the boys U14 title in the NMIFA fall league tomorrow at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Ol'Aces, G-Stars enter semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces and G-Stars secured the last two semis berths in the U19 division of the 2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after recording

contrasting wins last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces dominated Rollers B from the opening tip to finish en route to an easy 82-64 victory in the first game, while

See OL'ACES on Page 34



The Ol'Aces' Kevin De Leon Guerrero goes for a left-handed layup against Rollers B's John Darag during their playoff game in the Rotary caging last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Korean pro helps train Trench Tech fighters



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Chan Sung "The Korean Zombie" Jung, right, spars with Trench Tech's Jason Tarkong at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio last Wednesday.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A Korean MMA pro fighter was in town and helped train Trench Tech warriors for next week's Fan Appreciation Night.

Zombie" Jung of Korean Top Team was on Saipan from Dec. 5 to 9 and for five days exchanged blows with Trench Tech fighters at the club's gym in San Antonio.

Jung is one of Korean Top Team's best fighters

See KOREAN on Page 34

## Usual winners in SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Favored runners delivered as expected in the 2010 Saipan Swim Club Jingle Bell Fun Run with Ketson "Jack" Kabiri and Mamiko Oshima-Berger topping

the men's and women's divisions of last Wednesday's race.

Kabiri, who ruled the 2008 edition of the fun run with a time of 17 minutes, 38 seconds, failed to eclipse his time two years ago, but was still the top finisher

among 100 participants after clocking in at 17:57.

Oshima-Berger, a veteran and perennial winner of long and short distance races on Saipan, submitted 19:30 to rule the women's division.

Besides the men's and women's top finishers, SSC also acknowledged the Top 3 finishers in the students division. John Auther of Whispering Palms took the first place finish with his time of 20:15. He was also

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Participants in the 2010 Saipan Swim Club Jingle Bell Fun Run wait for the start of the race at Garapan Fishing Base last Wednesday.

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